### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# RECLAMATION BOARD TRLIA SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING

YUBA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
915 EIGHTH STREET
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' CHAMBER

MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 22, 2007 1:03 P.M.

KATHRYN S. KENYON, CSR CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER LICENSE NUMBER 13061 ii

#### APPEARANCES

### RECLAMATION BOARD

- Mr. Benjamin Carter, President
- Mr. Butch Hodgkins, Vice President
- Ms. Lady Bug Doherty, Secretary
- Mr. Jay Punia, General Manager
- Ms. Nancy Finch, Legal Counsel
- Mr. Dan Fua, Supervising Engineer
- Ms. Lorraine Pendlebury, Staff Assistant

#### THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

- Ms. Mary Jane Griego, Board Member
- Mr. Dan Logue, Board Member
- Mr. Paul Brunner, Executive Director
- Mr. Scott Shapiro, Special Counsel
- Mr. Ric Reinhardt, Program Manager

#### ALSO PRESENT

- Mr. Rex Archer
- Mr. Tom Ellis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Mr. Tom Foley, CCRG
- Mr. Greg Foster
- Mr. Tom Harris, Hofman Ranch
- Ms. Frances Hofman

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# APPEARANCES CONTINUED

- Mr. Jim Lewis
- Mr. Bob Morrison, Bender Rosenthal
- Mr. Dale Nieschulz
- Mr. George Qualley, DWR
- Ms. Jeanette Rice, Rice River Ranch
- Mr. Thomas Rice, Rice River Ranch

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- VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: We're going to start in
- 3 about five minutes. But I would like to take the
- 4 opportunity to remind those, if you would like to testify
- 5 today or comment, we need you please to fill out a card.
- 6 Cards are available on the back table, and you can
- 7 indicate for us which agenda item it is that you would
- 8 like to comment on. And if you just wanted to comment in
- 9 general, we have a couple of comment sessions on the
- 10 agenda, at the end of the meeting for people who want to
- 11 comment on items not the agenda.
- 12 When we start, we will give -- ask for comments
- 13 and provide the opportunity to comment, at the conclusion
- 14 of each item or subitem. You have an agenda, so you know
- 15 that means, first, we're going to go in and see if there's
- 16 any reason to change the agenda.
- 17 Then under 3, which is Status and Review of the
- 18 Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority Project, we have
- 19 Item A, which is Issue of Permit Compliance; and then
- 20 under B, we actually have five, separate issues, and we
- 21 will pause at the conclusion of each of the separate items
- 22 to offer an opportunity for public comment.
- 23 So that's how we would like to proceed.
- In making the comments today, it's important for
- 25 the Rec Board to be sure we have a transcript of what's

1 said at the meeting and that means our reporter has to be

- 2 able to hear your name.
- 3 Not the name.
- 4 LEGAL COUNSEL FINCH: No. What they are saying.
- 5 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. Of what you say.
- 6 And we would like to be able to identify who said it in
- 7 the transcript.
- 8 So we'll offer you two ways to do this, whichever
- 9 makes you the more comfortable. At the beginning of the
- 10 comments, we either can bring you a microphone if you want
- 11 to comment from your seat. Or if you prefer, you're
- 12 welcome to come up to the dais. But we need to get a
- 13 microphone in your hand, because in a room this big, so
- 14 that the reporter can hear what you say. So when we get
- 15 to comments, we will ask you to wait, once we've
- 16 identified you as the next person to speak, until we get a
- 17 microphone to you.
- 18 All right. After you have completed a card, bring
- 19 it up to the clerk of the Board. Would you raise your
- 20 hand, Lorraine?
- 21 Yeah. And she'll get them to me.
- 22 Mr. Carter is here. I would like to go ahead and
- 23 call the meeting of the TRLIA Subcommittee to order.
- 24 First item here is roll call.
- 25 Jay?

1 GENERAL MANAGER PUNIA: Jay Punia, general manager

- 2 of the Reclamation Board. For the record, all the
- 3 subcommittee members of the Reclamation Board are here:
- 4 President Ben Carter, Board Member Butch Hodgkins, and
- 5 secretary of the Board, Lady Bug.
- 6 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Thank you, Jay.
- 7 Okay. Second item here is approval of the agenda.
- 8 Is there anybody who wants to change or comment on
- 9 the agenda?
- 10 Okay.
- 11 PRESIDENT CARTER: I move that we approve the
- 12 agenda as filed.
- 13 SECRETARY DOHERTY: I will second that.
- 14 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Moved and seconded.
- 15 And all in favor, say "aye."
- 16 (Ayes.)
- 17 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: The agenda stands as
- 18 posted.
- 19 Okay. Move now on to Item 3. 3A is the response
- 20 to February 26, 2007, public comments on TRLIA compliance
- 21 with Yuba River South Levee permit conditions. And we're
- 22 going to go ahead and let TRLIA respond to the issues.
- I will mention that there have been discussions
- 24 between TRLIA and our staff, about the response, in an
- 25 effort to try and make sure none of the issues that were

- 1 raised earlier are overlooked. I would like, please, to
- 2 go through their entire response, and then we will have an
- 3 opportunity to comment and questions about that response.
- 4 All right. I will turn this over to you,
- 5 Mr. Brunner.
- 6 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: Yes. I would
- 7 like to welcome the Rec Board to Yuba County and welcome
- 8 the opportunity to share what we have, on the various
- 9 topics that we've got. We've got a lot of agenda topics.
- 10 First one deals with compliance issues that were
- 11 raised at the last meeting, that we summarized. Before we
- 12 get right into that item, a couple of comments, I would
- 13 like to share.
- 14 Members of our team here, Dan Logue and Ms. Griego
- 15 will be here -- members of our advisory committee from the
- 16 TRLIA Board will be here during the meeting.
- 17 Besides myself -- I'm Paul Brunner, the executive
- 18 director of Three Rivers. Ric Reinhardt is here, who's
- 19 our project manager engineer for our program. Scott
- 20 Shapiro is special counsel for our team. Bob Morrison is
- 21 also here, who will be speaking later on, on real estate
- 22 activities. And part of the -- if you have questions
- 23 about administrative things or working through in the
- 24 background, Leslie Wells from our office is right back
- 25 here, and she'll be able to help out people in the

- 1 audience back here.
- 2 We do have some handouts in the back. There's a
- 3 handout of paper that we prepared in conjunction with
- 4 the -- ourselves and coordinating with the Rec Board
- 5 staff -- will be speaking to that in a second, to the
- 6 compliance issues.
- 7 The -- we do not have copies of all our briefing
- 8 slides for everyone. The cost of just reproducing these
- 9 is really significant. So what we ended up doing is
- 10 making copies for the Board members and ourselves here,
- 11 people that were participating. If there is interest in
- 12 getting a copy of the briefing, I asked Leslie to put them
- 13 on our Web page. So they are being placed on the Web
- 14 page. If not today, they will be there tomorrow, on the
- 15 Web page, for people to look at.
- 16 If you do not have that ability to look at the Web
- 17 page, sign up, and we'll get you a copy of the briefing
- 18 slides, a hard copy, that you can look at. And the person
- 19 to contact here, during the course of the meeting, will be
- 20 Leslie, and she will handle that for you.
- 21 So with that I would like to turn to Scott
- 22 Shapiro, who will talk about the very first topic. Scott?
- TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Thank you, Paul.
- 24 Good afternoon, members of the Reclamation Board
- 25 Subcommittee. Thank you again for joining us.

1 I'm going to be referring to two documents in this

- 2 presentation on Agenda Item 3A. One is a memorandum,
- 3 which I'm holding up, which says "Responses to issues
- 4 raised on February 26, 2007, before the State Reclamation
- 5 Board Subcommittee." There are enough for everyone in the
- 6 audience. They are on the back table if you didn't get
- 7 one. So this document is available to everyone in the
- 8 audience to refer to.
- 9 The second item is the PowerPoint presentation
- 10 itself. And as Paul said, there are only enough, due to
- 11 cost limitations, but they are available on the Web site.
- 12 And if you ask Leslie, we can make other arrangements.
- 13 At the last subcommittee meeting, at the end of
- 14 the meeting, with the assistance of the President Carter
- 15 and Vice President Hodgkins, we went through a list of 12
- 16 issues that had been raised by the public and took down
- 17 notes on these 12 items. And the purpose of this
- 18 presentation is to go through each of the 12, to identify
- 19 the issues as we understood it and the response to the
- 20 issue.
- 21 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was
- 22 presented as follows.)
- 23 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Detail on this is
- 24 in the memo, that everybody in the room has, and that's
- 25 available on the back table, and the PowerPoint

1 presentation is simply the way of logically marching

- 2 through it.
- 3 --000--
- 4 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 1 was
- 5 the claim that the February 26th meeting constituted a
- 6 violation of the Bagley-Keene Act. As noted in our memo,
- 7 this is an issue that has been handled by Reclamation
- 8 Board staff counsel. We noticed on the agenda, that this
- 9 is agendized as Item No. 4. And my understanding is, the
- 10 Board tends to address it at that point.
- 11 So we'll move on to issue No. 2.
- 12 --000--
- 13 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 2, the
- 14 claim was that the Three Rivers has worked in the Yuba
- 15 River levees beyond the authorized time contained within
- 16 the relevant encroachment permit.
- 17 The simple response is that during 2006/07, Three
- 18 Rivers did work on the Yuba levees between Highway 70 and
- 19 Simpson Lane, under Permit 18095GM and Permit 17921GM. We
- 20 also performed O&M work on those levees in 2006. And what
- 21 follows are three tables that break down the work that we
- 22 performed, that identifies the permits or basis for doing
- 23 the work.
- 24 --000--
- 25 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Before we get to

- 1 that, here, very simply, are two aerials, with
- 2 information. These were taken in Steve Bradley's
- 3 presentation at the Reclamation Board last Friday, as an
- 4 orientation.
- 5 You see on this first slide, Highway 70 to Simpson
- 6 Lane reach.
- 7 And the second slide -- this is work done under
- 8 Permit 17921. There's the seepage berm.
- 9 --000--
- 10 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: The second slide,
- 11 you see Simpson Lane to UPRR; correct? As always, I will
- 12 look to Ric Reinhardt and Paul Brunner for technical
- 13 support, to make sure I'm not misstating anything about
- 14 the work we've done.
- 15 The work in this section was done under Permit
- 16 18095. And there was slurry wall down along the length of
- 17 the levee. And there was slope flattening done along this
- 18 length.
- 19 And there was also a seepage berm, what I refer to
- 20 as the triangular seepage berm, which you can see now
- 21 appearing on our end, on the left side of the screen,
- 22 about halfway up. Those are the two different permits,
- 23 the two different geographic areas.
- Let me turn to the tables, which are, again,
- 25 contained in the hand out.

1 Work under 18095GM between UPRR and Simpson Lane

- 2 included the following work: The slurry wall, which was
- 3 identified, which was constructed through October 22nd,
- 4 completed before the November 1st cutoff time line;
- 5 regrading of slope on the water side, to three to one,
- 6 also completed before November 1st; installation of the
- 7 seepage berm at the Cemex property. That was the
- 8 triangular seepage berm on the left side of the screen,
- 9 the second slide. That was completed after November 1st
- 10 but was done pursuant to a time extension, which was
- 11 granted by staff, to work until February 6th of 2007; and
- 12 finally, the installation of two monitoring wells at the
- 13 Cemex property, by the seepage berm. Again, the time
- 14 extension was granted, and that work was finished by
- 15 February 1st, 2007. The reason that this work was done
- 16 after November 1st was, primarily, we did not obtain the
- 17 property rights until sometime in January, to install the
- 18 seepage berm and the monitoring wells. There was also the
- 19 fact that, as we understood it, this work was not required
- 20 for certification. Therefore, we were going to postpone
- 21 it to the dry season. But in light of the fact that the
- 22 quarry permit was required for certification, we
- 23 aggressively did it during the winter with permission of
- 24 the time extension.
- 25 --000--

1 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: The second table

- 2 indicates work done under 17921GM on the seepage berm.
- 3 This is now the other seepage berm, the one in the first
- 4 slide, the one closest to Highway 70. The seepage berm
- 5 work was completed by October 21st, again, before the
- 6 November 1st deadline.
- 7 There was a detention pond excavation, which took
- 8 place between January 12th and January 19th. As those who
- 9 have tracked this issue know, Three Rivers did not believe
- 10 that an encroachment permit was required. But upon
- 11 hearing from staff and the Board, that the preference was
- 12 the one we applied for -- Three rivers applied for one --
- 13 and on Friday the Reclamation Board agreed to accept and
- 14 process the application.
- 15 The final table is the work that was done under
- 16 the O&M exception. As many know, there is no prohibition
- 17 against working on the levees for certain purposes during
- 18 the winter. In fact, it's often important to get in there
- 19 and perform O&M during that season. And the activities
- 20 here were all done in furtherance of O&M.
- 21 The first was sand placement. We noticed on the
- 22 seepage berm, there were a few low spots, so we added a
- 23 little bit of sand to level that out, that the survey data
- 24 was in. The rest of the items there, all the things were
- 25 erosion control: strippings, placing the seepage berm, top

1 cover, cobble placed to prevent erosion; further stripping

- 2 to prevent erosion; aggregate base for road, this is along
- 3 the seepage berm; and the hydroseeding. All of these
- 4 activities were -- I should note that this entire paper
- 5 was shared with Rec Board staff earlier in the week, and
- 6 has been reviewed. And as we understand it, Rec Board
- 7 staff agrees with the conclusions in here.
- 8 --000--
- 9 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: So moving on to
- 10 Issue 3. Issue 3, that we heard during the last meeting,
- 11 the public has no confidence in the statements of the Army
- 12 Corps of Engineers in regard to the level of protection
- 13 provided by the Yuba River levee, especially in light of
- 14 the presence of the boulders used to seal the 1986 break.
- 15 Three Rivers' response is that the Army Corps of
- 16 Engineers is the recognized national levee expert. The
- 17 work that we performed was pursuant to their standards.
- 18 They have reviewed our design. The design was done by a
- 19 nationally recognized company. And we stand behind the
- 20 work. And we also believe that the Corps' seal is
- 21 important and relevant to determining the adequacy of the
- 22 work.
- --000--
- 24 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 4 was
- 25 raised at the last meeting. The claim was that Three

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1 Rivers is not qualified to run the program that's being

- 2 performed. Instead, the work should be done by RD 784,
- 3 the State of California, or the Army Corps of Engineers.
- 4 Three Rivers aggressively engaged in this
- 5 improvement program, because it did not believe that Yuba
- 6 County could afford to wait for the Corps process, which
- 7 would take an additional five, ten, fifteen years.
- 8 In fact, the process -- when Three Rivers began,
- 9 the Corps was investigating improvements to the RD 784
- 10 levees. And five years later, the Corps continues its
- 11 investigation, has not finalized the report that has to go
- 12 to Washington in order for the Corps to even have the
- 13 opportunity to seek congressional authorization of
- 14 projects. What that basically means is, this project will
- 15 almost certainly be done before the Corps even has the
- 16 legal authority to act and perform this work.
- 17 Three Rivers and its consultants are well
- 18 qualified. To the embarrassment of my colleagues at the
- 19 table, I've picked just a few key points here. Paul
- 20 Brunner, our executive director is a civil engineer with
- 21 30 years of experience. Ric Reinhardt is a civil engineer
- 22 with 12 years of experience and formally was with the
- 23 Corps, in flood issues. And finally, HDR and BE/GEI, our
- 24 main design and construction oversight consultants are
- 25 nationally recognized in the fact that they are

1 consultants to DWR and the Corps of Engineers for projects

- 2 around the country.
- 3 --000--
- 4 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 5 was
- 5 raised at the last meeting. Three Rivers has repeatedly
- 6 made statements to the public about whether the
- 7 completed -- when the completed levees would be certified.
- 8 And to date, those levees have still not been certified.
- 9 --000--
- 10 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: That is correct.
- 11 Three Rivers does not control the Corps process and when
- 12 certification will be provided. Nonetheless, we're
- 13 hopeful it will be soon.
- 14 The technical memo goes into much greater detail.
- 15 It identifies the communication that we've had with the
- 16 Corps and with the Reclamation Board in reporting on when
- 17 we expect certification. It also identifies the reaches
- 18 that certification is relevant to. And finally, it has
- 19 over a page of detailed items that the Corps had requested
- 20 be done, to finally allow certification to go forward.
- 21 You will notice that of those items, all except one has
- 22 been completed, and that's the first one.
- 23 So Three Rivers is very confident that
- 24 certification will occur shortly. I hesitate to even
- 25 offer a date, in light of our past dates that have been

1 offered. But we are hopeful that as soon as that last

- 2 item is accepted by the Corps, certification will come.
- 3 --000--
- 4 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 6,
- 5 raised at the last meeting. Three Rivers has not been
- 6 truthful in dealing with the State Reclamation Board.
- 7 We provide monthly updates. We do those in
- 8 writing form, about two weeks before the Board meeting.
- 9 We provide a written supplemental report at the Board
- 10 meeting. We also provide a verbal report at the Board
- 11 meeting. Our goal, in each of these reports, is to
- 12 provide accurate and timely information. If there is an
- 13 error in them, we do our best to correct it. Where it's
- 14 been identified in the past, that there was an error, we
- 15 have corrected it. And to the extent that a past report
- 16 provided incomplete or incorrect information, we regret
- 17 that, and we will work diligently with the Board, the
- 18 staff, and the public, to address those issues.
- 19 --000--
- 20 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 7, again
- 21 from the last meeting, Three Rivers has been illegally
- 22 working on the levees during the winter months.
- 23 In regards to this claim, we refer back to the
- 24 response that says "to Issue 7." It should be "to Issue
- 25 No. 2." That was the three different tables in which we

1 identified the work done under each of the two different

- 2 permits on Yuba and the work that was done under the
- 3 elementary section.
- 4 --000--
- 5 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 8. A
- 6 significant cut has been made into the Yuba River levee.
- 7 And Three Rivers is hiding that from the State Reclamation
- 8 Board.
- 9 We were not aware of that cut until the issue was
- 10 raised at the last meeting. As General Manager Jay Punia
- 11 identified, he had recently been informed of the cut and
- 12 had not yet had an opportunity to inform Three Rivers of
- 13 its existence. We did go out and investigate it. The cut
- 14 is approximately 6 inches deep. It does not appear to
- 15 have damaged the structural integrity of the levee.
- 16 Attached to the memo, that the audience has, is a
- 17 technical memo from HDR, that analyses, for three or four
- 18 pages, ways in which the cut might have been created, work
- 19 that could be done to fix it, and confirm that it does not
- 20 have any negative impact to the structural integrity.
- 21 Since identifying the cut, Three Rivers requested,
- 22 and the Board staff approved the variance to Permit 17921,
- 23 to repair the cut. And earlier this week, we had a
- 24 construction crew on site to do that work --
- 25 --000--

1 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: -- which is not

- 2 quite completed yet.
- 3 Issue No. 9, Three Rivers illegally constructed a
- 4 detention basin on Caltrans property adjacent to the
- 5 seepage berm without an encroachment permit from the State
- 6 Reclamation Board.
- 7 As noted previously, we do not believe a permit
- 8 was required. Nonetheless, upon hearing from the Board
- 9 and staff that they would like a permit, we applied for a
- 10 permit. And on Friday of last week, the Board agreed to
- 11 process that application. And assuming the packet is
- 12 complete, we look forward to receiving the permit after
- 13 that.
- 14 --000--
- 15 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 10 from
- 16 the last meeting. The Yuba River levee seepage berm was
- 17 constructed later than originally planned.
- 18 That is also correct. As I noted earlier, Three
- 19 Rivers planned to construct that seepage berm in 2006 as
- 20 part of slurry wall construction. But we did not receive
- 21 the necessary real estate rights until January 22nd of
- 22 2007.
- 23 We also, as I noted, believed it was not required
- 24 for certification, so it could have been pushed until the
- 25 summer, when there's no risk of high water. But during

1 certification review by the Corps, the Corps requested it

- 2 be constructed sooner, and so we did construct it, again
- 3 pursuant to an authorized variance from Rec Board staff.
- 4 --000--
- 5 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Issue No. 11. The
- 6 accepting of a permit from the State Reclamation Board is
- 7 a commitment to perform all of the work contained within
- 8 the permit, within the time frame within the permit.
- 9 That's actually not correct. An encroachment
- 10 permit is an authorization from the Board to perform the
- 11 work. It is not a requirement that the work be performed.
- 12 It does not have a deadline in it for when the work is
- 13 supposed to be completed. It does state that if the work
- 14 is not completed -- not started within a year, the permit
- 15 is no longer valid.
- Nonetheless, we do intend to construct all
- 17 necessary program elements to achieve 200-year protection.
- 18 It hasn't happened through this program, that between
- 19 obtaining a permit and working with the Corps for
- 20 consultation, we found that some program elements were not
- 21 necessary or need to be changed. In those circumstances,
- 22 we've come back to the Board and requested a modification
- 23 of that permit.
- 24 Certainly if there's work that we received a
- 25 permit for and do not do the work, we will, in conjunction

1 with DWR, upon their final inspection, make the Board

- 2 aware of that. And if any further remedial action is
- 3 required, we would be available to do it at that time.
- 4 --000--
- 5 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Finally, Issue
- 6 No. 12, Yuba River levees are now washing out as a result
- 7 of the recent rains.
- 8 There was a photo presented last time. The photo
- 9 did not show, to us, any significant erosion. Three
- 10 Rivers and RD 784 have gone out and looked at that levee
- 11 and do not believe there was any severe or significant
- 12 erosion.
- 13 We are, however, going to repair the minor erosion
- 14 during our normal maintenance work at the appropriate
- 15 time, which would most likely be in the spring.
- And unless Ric or Paul have anything to add, that
- 17 concludes our presentation on the 12 points.
- 18 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Are there any questions
- 19 for the Board members and staff?
- 20 PRESIDENT CARTER: I have one question.
- On your memorandum you had, you listed a
- 22 completion date. There was a question raised at the last
- 23 meeting and also the last Board meeting with regard to
- 24 what -- how you define "completion."
- I just want to clarify, "completion" means that

- 1 the construction work has been done, it does not imply
- 2 that the work has been inspected and approved or accepted
- 3 by the State or the Corps; is that correct?
- 4 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: That's correct.
- 5 The dates that are on there are when we finish the major
- 6 construction activities. For example, if you look at the
- 7 second table, the completed seepage berm completed on
- 8 October 21st, 2006, despite that, after surveys, we found
- 9 that there were a few low spots. So under O&M, the first
- 10 item in the next table, we add some sand places to fill
- 11 low spots. So that's an example where we deemed the
- 12 construction is complete. But that didn't mean that we
- 13 were walking away from the project, with a bow on it,
- 14 ready to go home.
- 15 And Paul or Ric, do you have anything to add?
- 16 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: The only thing
- 17 I would add to that is that the term "completion" is very
- 18 much like Scott was talking about. We look at structural
- 19 integrity. Is the levee system in place? In this case,
- 20 the seepage berm was there.
- 21 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. Other questions
- 22 from staff or the Board?
- 23 Seeing none, I have cards from Thomas Foley and
- 24 Rex Archer, who have both indicated a desire to speak on
- 25 this item. And I will go ahead -- I think Mr. Foley's

- 1 card came in first. Is there an order you prefer?
- 2 MR. FOLEY: Good afternoon, Board and Three Rivers
- 3 Board members. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm
- 4 Thomas Foley, Yuba City, California, director of a small
- 5 nonprofit, been in business since '04, Concerned Citizens
- 6 for Responsible Growth.
- 7 I would like to, I guess, rebut or speak again, on
- 8 No. 4, TRLIA not qualified; number 6, TRLIA not truthful.
- 9 I have involved myself with this since 2004. How
- 10 everything has unfolded demonstrates clearly how badly the
- 11 public needs the Rec Board.
- 12 This is a very good thing for the public, how
- 13 Three Rivers was called before to clean up their actions.
- 14 It shows the Rec Board authority should be used more
- 15 aggressively.
- 16 It clearly demonstrates clearly how badly the
- 17 public needs the Rec Board and how badly the public needs
- 18 the Rec Board to act with integrity. Oh, I want to
- 19 mention again, what I want to refer to on 4 and 6, not
- 20 qualified and not truthful, is regards to findings, not
- 21 engineering. The assurance that the Board had before --
- 22 the page from the transcripts, May 19th, Scott Shapiro
- 23 said to the Board, the building permit restrictions are
- 24 not to be lifted till 20 million is in an escrow account,
- 25 guaranteed 150 million to follow.

1 If assurance were given to the public, through the

- 2 Rec Board, on May 19th meeting -- that was also the
- 3 meeting these assurance were given. That was the meeting
- 4 the Board lifted the building restrictions, based on those
- 5 assurances. That's both.
- If assurances were given to the public, through
- 7 the Rec Board that \$135 million was guaranteed by the
- 8 lifting of the building restrictions, why should the
- 9 public settle for less? Last meeting, we heard a hundred
- 10 million dollars coming from the development community.
- 11 That's \$35 million less than promised, to lift the
- 12 restrictions.
- 13 I don't believe it is unreasonable, as a member of
- 14 the public, to expect the Rec Board to ensure promises are
- 15 kept. To the best of their abilities, the Rec Board
- 16 should deliver to the public what the public was promised.
- 17 The builders are not being asked anything especially
- 18 onerous. They are being asked to pay infrastructure
- 19 impact fees. That goes on every day. The development
- 20 impacts the public, and the public reasonably expects that
- 21 their public officials, when dealing with developers, get
- 22 a good deal for the public. The developers as businessmen
- 23 are looking to cut costs. If lax government officials
- 24 don't demand adequate impact fees, infrastructure fees,
- 25 that is a good deal for the home builder. But that's a

- 1 bad deal for the public.
- 2 Allowing development of floodplains without
- 3 adequate flood protection is risky and Plumas Lakes is
- 4 controversial. The former members of the Rec Board forced
- 5 the local officials here to get serious. Is this Board,
- 6 is this Rec Board, going to meet their responsibilities?
- 7 Acting as a Board, they haven't yet. It is extremely
- 8 suspect to hear Rec Board members praising local officials
- 9 and the development community. And they should know
- 10 better. They should know that builders do not volunteer
- 11 impact and infrastructure fees out of the goodness of
- 12 their heart.
- 13 The Board has the power and responsibility to use
- 14 their power, to extract quickly the monies needed for
- 15 levee repairs to move forward. There is only so much bond
- 16 money to go around. There isn't enough -- it is not
- 17 unlimited.
- 18 You are allowing local officials here, and DWR at
- 19 the last meeting to misrepresent to the public what is
- 20 occurring. It is not okay for the Board to allow
- 21 developers in this area to escape their flood protection
- 22 obligations without acknowledging to the public that they
- 23 are taking, by that action, by the Board's -- by the Board
- 24 allowing that to happen, you are taking bond money away
- 25 from some other areas.

1 If the developers promise you \$35 million to lift

- 2 the bid and now a hundred million, won't \$35 million be
- 3 taken away from other residents in the flood zone area?
- 4 The Board should not allow that.
- 5 The Board is going to see a lot of this. Ensuring
- 6 fair share financing of flood protection between bond
- 7 money and developer fees is as much this Board's job as
- 8 anything is.
- 9 Getting the financing right is integral to the
- 10 soundness of flood control projects as geotechnical
- 11 engineering is. The Board has powers and
- 12 responsibilities. It is not a rubber stamp for other
- 13 agencies, even if many private interests may wish it were.
- 14 Thank you.
- 15 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Do you want to respond
- 16 at all?
- 17 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: No.
- 18 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. Couple of things
- 19 that I would like to sort of respond on. I want to be
- 20 sure I heard what Mr. Foley said, because I have a hearing
- 21 problem, and his voice and my ears don't work really good
- 22 together.
- 23 But I think you said that at some point in the
- 24 past, there was a commitment here to bring forward from
- 25 the development community enough money, 135 million to

- 1 complete this project.
- 2 MR. FOLEY: It's in the transcripts, yes.
- 3 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: And I think that's a
- 4 correct statement, that that commitment was made. And I
- 5 think Mr. Foley is now saying that, what, that the money
- 6 hasn't been forthcoming? I don't want to put words in
- 7 your mouth.
- 8 MR. FOLEY: Unless I'm missing something,
- 9 transcripts, May 19th, 135 million from the development
- 10 community, Scott Shapiro last -- whatever that day was,
- 11 February -- last meeting here, a hundred million. That's
- 12 \$35 million less. Both are in the transcript, I'm sure of
- 13 it.
- 14 That is my question. When the 35 million goes
- 15 missing, there is someone -- some other downstream -- some
- 16 other upstream. There are people living in areas that
- 17 need it, that can badly use that \$35 million for flood
- 18 improvements. And you lifted the building restrictions on
- 19 promises of \$135 million.
- 20 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Could we kind of work
- 21 through these together, to make sure I understand? Okay.
- 22 It wasn't to bring forward \$135 million. Subsequent to
- 23 that, the bond issue passed.
- Is the point you are making that rather than have
- 25 them receive bond money, they should still be required to

1 bring forward the 135 million that they committed to bring

- 2 forward?
- 3 MR. FOLEY: Yes, the \$35 million that doesn't come
- 4 from them, that is bond -- that you are giving them
- 5 \$35 million in bond money that people -- other people
- 6 should really expect that they should receive, other
- 7 areas.
- 8 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. And I think, you
- 9 know, Mr. Foley raises a point. But I think it's
- 10 important for the audience to understand here that the
- 11 money that is approved in those bond issues is going to be
- 12 brought about by a combination of DWR and the Legislature.
- 13 And DWR is in the process of working out exactly what the
- 14 requirements will be when they're parceling the money out.
- 15 And they have indicated that perhaps this project
- 16 qualifies for some money, but there has been no commitment
- 17 to give them any money.
- 18 The Board doesn't really control how DWR and the
- 19 Legislature allocate the money out of the bond. And part
- 20 of what I'm sure they are worrying about is, they want to
- 21 make sure they follow the requirements of the bond and
- 22 they want to treat everybody fairly and equitably as they
- 23 do that.
- 24 And so while I'm not disagreeing specifically with
- 25 Mr. Foley's point, I'm just saying that they are not

- 1 correct. I think that allocating the bond money is
- 2 something that's done by DWR, and the legislature is
- 3 consistent with provisions and bonds, was approved by the
- 4 voters, and the regulations are going to be forthcoming.
- 5 And so the Board is not in a position here,
- 6 whether it is likely. We could say, don't give them the
- 7 money, rather have it available to somebody else. I know
- 8 it sounds like we keep escaping this by saying it's not
- 9 something we are in control of. But it is not something
- 10 that we're in control of. Although I certainly think this
- 11 is an appropriate forum for somebody to make a point about
- 12 what they think about it.
- MR. FOLEY: Can I mention --
- 14 PRESIDENT CARTER: Butch, what I would suggest --
- 15 I'm a little confused with regards to the facts. I'm not
- 16 sure whether the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority
- 17 has backed off from their original commitment of May 19th,
- 18 2006, or not. But that's something that we could address
- 19 as part of item -- Roman numeral IV, under Agenda Item 3B,
- 20 which is the revised TRLIA Financing Plan. If we could
- 21 get the facts and then maybe come back to this.
- 22 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: That's why he's the
- 23 chair of the Board. And that's exactly the way I think we
- 24 should proceed. And that's really the whole purpose of
- 25 these hearings.

1 MR. FOLEY: Final word. The Reclamation Board

- 2 will act aggressively, use their powers and their
- 3 authority to get that promised \$35 million is now gone --
- 4 is not available to the public. Separate from the bond
- 5 issue, if you have that power, you have authority to keep
- 6 to their promises, why don't do it? Separate from the
- 7 bond --
- 8 SECRETARY DOHERTY: So in other words, you want --
- 9 if they don't have that 35 million -- the project stopped.
- 10 MR. FOLEY: The Board -- I can not guide the
- 11 Board. The Board takes the necessary actions to the best
- 12 of their abilities. As I said, to the best of their
- 13 abilities, they take the necessary action and see if --
- 14 that's a pool of money. Somebody's going to get hurt by
- 15 that. It's also based -- in the transcript, that promise
- 16 was made. Your Board had questions. I went through the
- 17 transcripts. Rose Marie Burroughs was very hesitant that
- 18 day. But there were promises made for you to move ahead.
- 19 But you don't have the money, everything else is talk.
- Thank you.
- 21 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. And I -- so I
- 22 think a fair question to address later in this
- 23 presentation is, what are the commitments from Three
- 24 Rivers here in terms of bringing money to this project?
- Mr. Archer?

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1 MR. ARCHER: Rex Archer from Linda. I've been
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- 2 before these boards a few times on these matters.
- 3 First we have to clarify a permit, 18095GM. Now,
- 4 that permit is the permit -- I don't have a big map, but
- 5 up here is the Linda levee. That permit covers from down
- 6 here, at the E Street Bridge, where you cross it, up to
- 7 Simpson Lane. That's what we are talking about now. That
- 8 levee up there.
- 9 In August -- August 7th of 2006, the Department of
- 10 the Army Corps of Engineers sent a letter to the general
- 11 manager of the Reclamation Board. And it said, we have
- 12 reviewed this application of 18095GM, and it calls for
- 13 approximately 4,100 linear feet and flattening the water
- 14 side slope to a three-to-one grade and placing riprap,
- 15 that's those giant boulders, along approximately 400
- linear feet of the water side slope of the left bank levee
- 17 of the Yuba River.
- 18 So what all that said was, that permit that they
- 19 were issued said that they would flatten this levee, where
- 20 the levee broke in 1986, do a three-to-one slope. Now,
- 21 what that means is, the levee sets like this. They want
- 22 it more so, three to one. I'm not an engineer, as I was
- 23 told by Mr. Carter. I am an engineer prior. But anyway,
- 24 that's what engineers look at. They want it right here.
- The other part, the large riprap, goes down here,

1 at the corner, under the E Street Bridge, where the levee

- 2 turns by shad pad -- the Shad Road area. It turns and
- 3 goes south and it runs into the Feather River Boulevard.
- 4 Right in that corner, under that bridge, is where those
- 5 giant riprap boulders were to be placed to stop this Yuba
- 6 River, right here, from hitting that and washing out that
- 7 levee.
- 8 Now, these things weren't done by the Rec Board,
- 9 by anybody. They were done by Three Rivers asking for
- 10 that and that and this little sand berm. They were asking
- 11 those three major items to be done, under that permit, for
- 12 the safety of Linda, Olivehurst, Plumas Lake and others,
- 13 south of here. When that levee breaks, the water pools up
- 14 down here. Everybody gets flooded in between.
- 15 It is not a Linda levee. It's called that because
- 16 it's in Linda. But when that levee breaks, it goes down
- 17 there. We don't need models on a table to show that. We
- 18 saw that. It broke in '86. I was standing on it. It
- 19 went down, where I told you it pooled up down there for
- 20 several weeks.
- 21 Now, what I'm getting at, that permit was sent
- 22 over there to the Corps -- to the Reclamation Board. They
- 23 got it and acted on it, on August 24th. Three weeks later
- 24 the Corps said, it's a good one; the Rec Board says it's a
- 25 good one.

1 It's gone. They don't have construction tables,

- 2 they say. That particular one says No. B, which is -- I
- 3 believe B is a total of 400 feet of treating the side of
- 4 the levee, like I said earlier, bringing it back to where
- 5 it belongs. Now, B was to take from August 1st to August
- 6 the 30th, 30 days.
- 7 This is not anybody's schedule except Three
- 8 Rivers'. They sent it. The Corps of Engineers accepted
- 9 it. The Rec Board accepted it and it moved on.
- 10 Then, No. E. E at that time said a slurry wall
- 11 from behind Wal-Mart up to Simpson Lane, and a sand berm.
- 12 They put the slurry wall in, up to Simpson Lane and said,
- 13 "We're all done. That's the end of the permit." I, under
- 14 the Freedom of Information Act, found out, there was more
- 15 to that permit than what they gave to the public.
- 16 That's why I say they are not doing right by the
- 17 public. They are not the people that should be running
- 18 these levees, because these permits were issued to protect
- 19 me. They said they completed those issues. I stated last
- 20 week at the Rec Board meeting, I told you folks, seven
- 21 times they told everybody that that levee, here, is
- 22 completed. It is completed to the way Three Rivers does
- 23 levee work.
- 24 What they do is they get a permit from the Corps
- 25 and the Rec Board. Then they expect nobody to look at it.

1 It's out of the way. Nobody can see them doing the work.

- 2 But I know levee work. I worked on that levee. I was the
- 3 president of that levee for seven years. And I was --
- 4 worked in the sheriff's office around and about,
- 5 associated over 20 years. I know how to investigate. I
- 6 went up there and I said, "This work is not done, but they
- 7 say it's done." I come before different boards, including
- 8 Board of Supervisors, the Three Rivers Board, and I tell
- 9 them these things. "No, Rex, you're wrong."
- 10 Go up there now, the work is not done. It has not
- 11 been done. It is not going to be done, because they won't
- 12 put the money in that levee. And when they do, it's going
- 13 to cost so much. It's such an outrageous amount of money.
- 14 But why don't they just be fair and say, "We can't fix
- 15 that levee. We don't have money enough." It's the most
- 16 sorriest place in the world to put a levee, number 1, but
- 17 don't come forward and say, "We finished that levee. It's
- 18 safe, guys. Don't worry about it."
- 19 Mr. Logue, talking to a bunch of Hmong one time, a
- 20 bunch of good people. Says, "I'm going to fix the levee,
- 21 a 200-year levee, so you guys can sleep." He couldn't
- 22 speak their language, but he could say "sleep."
- Now, he's telling all of us, we can sleep,
- 24 Mr. Vice President. I do not like the position they put
- 25 me in. That position is still there today, and they will

1 sit on there. Right now, Mr. Shapiro will sit there and

- 2 say, "Rex, you're wrong," because that permit is not
- 3 legal.
- 4 Now, let me ask you guys: We know that levee has
- 5 to be done. It needs to be done. So are you going to say
- 6 we didn't do it because you wouldn't let us raise the
- 7 levee three inches? You wouldn't -- we're not going to do
- 8 it because you, Mr. Jay Punia, you're a fine man, did not
- 9 get a paper in the mail from those people? And that's
- 10 what they are telling you now, and you are telling Rex
- 11 Archer. We didn't get a paper in the mail that said a
- 12 drawing, Mr. Shapiro.
- 13 They didn't get it, so we can't fix that levee.
- 14 Nevermind the 50,000 people that might get flooded.
- 15 Now, you said in here, somewhere, that you put two
- 16 monitoring wells at that sand berm. That sand berm we're
- 17 speaking of now is site No. 1. You guys gave it a name.
- 18 The big sand berm is No. 2. Site No. 1, that I caught you
- 19 at, and I said, "You didn't fix it," so you rushed and you
- 20 called. Mr. Bradley isn't here. You called him. He gave
- 21 you a variance permit. You ran up there. You didn't put
- 22 a sand berm in, you dumped sand on the ground, period.
- I showed you pictures of it. I showed it to the
- 24 Board last week. I sent it to the Corps of Engineers.
- 25 And I said, Mr. Reinhardt says, "You guys guided

- 1 us on this."
- 2 So I said, "Did you really guide him?" And you're
- 3 piling a bunch of sand in the middle of the floor and
- 4 calling it a sand berm.
- 5 Sand berm, I told you last week, because I learned
- 6 it from people. I didn't know these things until I got
- 7 involved with you guys. But look, that sand berm, that
- 8 thing, is that flat on the ground. It's supposed to go up
- 9 like that and hook to the levee.
- 10 It doesn't do it. It's that far away from the
- 11 levee. In fact, you now have a fence around it so that it
- 12 can't. So when the water comes through there, the reason
- 13 you took that sand berm -- it's just going to go over the
- 14 land and push your sand out of the way.
- 15 But you completed that sand berm. You said
- 16 numerous times, you completed the Linda levee. You go
- 17 over there, I can show you, I have taken members of this
- 18 Board of Reclamation over there. We walked them, and they
- 19 said, "Where's this supposed to be?"
- I said, "Right there."
- 21 "But there's nothing there."
- 22 And I says, "That's what I'm telling you. They
- 23 didn't do it."
- 24 So because they didn't get a paper sent to them,
- 25 you are telling me, you are not going to fix the Linda

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1 levee. You didn't fix it. You had three months. And

- 2 right in here, it told -- I told you earlier, right in
- 3 here, it says do number A 30 days from September the 1st
- 4 to September the 30th; do number B from August 1st through
- 5 August 30th; do C and D, July the 1st. Well, that won't
- 6 work. That's raising the levee. They didn't let you
- 7 raise the levee. No. E was to take 120 days. Slurry wall
- 8 and levee raise. It's all laid out right there.
- 9 But you say, "This is no good," even though it was
- 10 signed by the Corps of Engineers on August the 7th and
- 11 sent to the State Reclamation Board and signed off August
- 12 the 24th as a good one. It was still a good one until
- 13 last month.
- 14 Nobody questioned whether that was a good permit
- 15 or not. But when I caught you guys not doing those works,
- 16 like you were supposed to do, you got together and you
- 17 said, "What can we do? How can we fix this? Let's say we
- 18 didn't get a paper, " or whatever.
- 19 But nonetheless, shame on the bunch of you. There
- 20 are old people. There are schools there. And it happened
- 21 in '86. It's not like something Rex Archer is dreaming
- 22 up. This is something that's going to happen.
- Now, let me tell you the worst of all. You don't
- 24 even know this yet. You know it, but you kept it to
- 25 yourself. That levee is slumped like this. Everybody

- 1 ought to know what a slump in a levee does. When the
- 2 levee slumps like this, the bottom of it went somewhere
- 3 because it's flat, and it can't go anywhere. But when it
- 4 slumps, it went somewhere.
- 5 Now, we've only had high water in '95, '96, '97,
- 6 '98, winter. So one of those two years, that levee eroded
- 7 out from under it, through those rocks that nobody wants
- 8 to hear about, those boulders. Them things have holes in
- 9 them that big, because I saw them when they dumped them.
- 10 They didn't land in perfect square things. They landed
- 11 cattywampus.
- Now, this water, in one of those two winter years,
- 13 went through there, took levee with it. Now, how did you
- 14 guys cover that up? It was crafty. But I, being an
- 15 ex-cop and bringing so many fellows to prison and whatnot,
- 16 you left that there, like that, and you made a road, and
- 17 you covered it with asphalt like that. You covered it
- 18 with asphalt.
- 19 Now, when you go out there now and you go out
- 20 there and look, you see a perfectly straight road. But
- 21 you see the asphalt start here and grow. Sloppy.
- But the thing of it is, that's why you have no
- 23 rights, no business being in the levees that protect Rex
- 24 Archer. The way we've done it forever and ever, before we
- 25 needed 200-year levees for housing, down in Plumas Lake

1 and other places. Before we done that, we had the Yuba

- 2 County Water Agency that wasn't loaded with supervisors,
- 3 but had other people there too, that used their head.
- 4 They took that money, they searched money, they
- 5 got money, they done our share. They got the state's
- 6 share and they got federal share.
- 7 No private developers, no private car dealers, no
- 8 private nothing. The state, the federals, the Rec Board
- 9 overseeing our money, which there's tax money in there,
- 10 Mr. Vice President.
- 11 I don't know if -- there's another strange thing.
- 12 12,950-some thousand dollars was paid to Nordic Industries
- 13 to do that slurry wall. Is that high, or does that
- 14 include all the way and doing these levee things I just
- 15 told you about.
- And if it didn't, if it was 12,900 and something,
- 17 to do all work, and they only done part of it, who got the
- 18 other 6 million? Or did he give you back 6 million? Or
- is there something else I'm not seeing here?
- 20 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Mr. Archer?
- MR. ARCHER: Are you about done?
- 22 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: You kind of wandered
- 23 from the points on the permit, which I think you made.
- MR. ARCHER: Sir?
- 25 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: You have wandered away

1 from the points on the permit to other questions you have

- 2 about what they are doing work and not --
- 3 MR. ARCHER: Mr. Vice President, everything I'm
- 4 saying at this second includes those permits, including
- 5 when they done that slurry wall and they only done half of
- 6 it, and they got paid for all of it. That is under that
- 7 permit, sir. But I am through now, unless you have a
- 8 question.
- 9 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Thank you.
- 10 Do you want to respond to those, please.
- 11 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: We do have some
- 12 responses on it. And I have a few comments I wanted to
- 13 share. Scott does and so does Ric, in response to some of
- 14 the items that were raised.
- 15 The -- for Three Rivers, we believe that the
- 16 levees were built safely and correctly, as identified in
- 17 our paperwork. He described very accurately the work that
- 18 we've done, to the Rec Board. At the last meeting, that
- 19 was just last Friday, we went through a very long
- 20 elaborate discussion. In fact, Rec Board staff gave a
- 21 briefing and a presentation, the work that we've done on
- 22 the project, which specified and shared what we did on it,
- 23 at least in the order and accomplishment of the work.
- We described here on the topic as to the work that
- 25 we've done. We'll make a couple comments.

1 For Three Rivers, we stand behind what we say and

- 2 what we presented in our project on it.
- 3 So Scott, do you have a couple comments?
- 4 LEGAL COUNSEL MORGAN: Well, I want to make sure
- 5 the record clear is on these items. We were speaking
- 6 about Permit 18095, which is the aerial that's up on the
- 7 screen. For the record, it's the second of the two
- 8 aerials in the PowerPoint.
- 9 And the issue was raised by Mr. Archer that the
- 10 initial application for the permit indicated regrade slope
- 11 work would be done in August. And he is correct, it was
- 12 not done in August. It was done in October. But it was
- 13 done before the flood season. We weren't able to get it
- 14 done in August due to other issues.
- 15 There was a second issue raised, that the Cemex
- 16 berm was supposed to be constructed by the flood season.
- 17 I think we have now said, in two or three briefings, it
- 18 wasn't. We could not get permission from the Cemex
- 19 company to get in and put sand on that property. That
- 20 permission came on January 22nd, and at that time, we put
- 21 the seepage berm in.
- 22 The other issue that seems to be of focus today is
- 23 the fact, the piece of paper which Mr. Archer has, says
- 24 we're going to raise the levee and we're not doing that or
- 25 grading the levee off the resection. And as the Board

- 1 knows full well, the Board has declined to give us
- 2 permission to raise the levee at this time. There's been
- 3 substantive discussion statewide on how levees should be
- 4 raised and hydraulic impacts to be measured. We're aware
- 5 of that dialogue. We're engaged in it, and we hope to get
- 6 permission to raise it, when the time comes.
- 7 But what may not be clear to the public, and it's
- 8 important for the public to understand, is the issue with
- 9 raising the levee is, once you have raised the height of
- 10 the levee, the current slope may no longer meet
- 11 three-to-one standards, without having to raise the levee.
- 12 Regrading it doesn't have the same urgency and isn't
- 13 necessarily more important.
- 14 And I will hand it to Ric Reinhardt for some
- 15 additional points.
- 16 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Point of
- 17 clarification on the slope. The existing slope from
- 18 Highway 70 to the Union Pacific Railroad is 2.7 to 1, not
- 19 3 to 1. Kleinfelder has done a geotechnical slope
- 20 stability analysis and determined the 100- and the
- 21 300-year is to be flattened.
- 22 The Corps has said that they support the
- 23 certification. And Kleinfelder's conclusion, the 100-year
- 24 water surface elevation, they said, for a matter of policy
- 25 for 200-year, they want to see that slope flattened to

- 1 three-to-one. And so from a cost standpoint, while we
- 2 don't believe it's a public safety concern, when -- if the
- 3 Board or when the Board makes a decision on whether to
- 4 allow us to raise that levee or not, we would go out and
- 5 flatten that slope as part of one construction contract,
- 6 rather than remobilizing again and doing work twice.
- 7 I would like to speak in a little detail.
- 8 Mr. Archer raised at the meeting, at last Friday's full
- 9 Board meeting, about the seepage berm at the Cemex plant,
- 10 that it was supposed to come up 10 feet up the levee
- 11 slope. The 90 percent drawings, which was what the basis
- 12 for our encroachment application did include that. It had
- 13 the same design as downstream of the Union Pacific
- 14 Railroad, where we had a seepage berm that then sloped up
- 15 to the stability berm that tied into the slope.
- The purpose of this seepage berm is to deal with
- 17 underseepage effects, where it begins to grow, where it
- 18 ties into our slurry wall.
- 19 In July 5th of 2006, Kleinfelder issued a memo on
- 20 the seepage berm. I would like to just briefly read a
- 21 couple of the conclusions from it. It says, the seepage
- 22 berm analysis indicates that exit gradiance below the 0.5
- 23 threshold provided the ground surface at elevation 63
- 24 higher.
- 25 The previous -- the 90 percent drawings, which I

- 1 apologize. I didn't have an opportunity to have it
- 2 scanned and up on the board for you. The 90 percent
- 3 drawings had the seepage berm top elevation ranging from a
- 4 low of 65 to a high of 72. Kleinfelder's new design, that
- 5 it was incurred by the Corps, and it became a part of the
- 6 plan's issued permits, it didn't need to go any higher
- 7 than elevation 63. Elevation 63 is the elevation of the
- 8 ground out there. So from a practical standpoint, really
- 9 nothing probably would have needed to be done.
- 10 The next bullet really gives you to why we took
- 11 action. It says some rubble and woodchips were found in
- 12 the upper few feet of soil, indicating the upper few feet
- 13 may not meet the minimum weight requirements, which the
- 14 0.5 grading criteria is based, and may be present in this
- 15 rubble.
- 16 So our activities out there were to go out and
- 17 remove those woodchips and that concrete rubble and
- 18 replace it with the sand. So if you go out and stand on
- 19 the site, what you see is something that's very close to
- 20 that existing elevation out there. The elevation 63, we
- 21 have taken out all of those woodchips and the concrete
- 22 rubble and replaced it with adequate material.
- The monitoring wells that were installed on the
- 24 site, they come up 2 feet out of the ground. They have a
- 25 steel encasing around them.

1 The only other item that I'd like to clarify is

- 2 from the Board Meeting. Member Doherty asked me about the
- 3 fence and was that a part of our project. And at the time
- 4 I answered "yes." And what I found subsequent to
- 5 answering that, is that the Cemex had a fence that was out
- 6 there. And during construction, someone broke into the
- 7 site, took one of the heavy equipment from Cemex, and ran
- 8 it through the fence and stole some of our contractor's
- 9 equipment. We replaced that fence with the existing --
- 10 with the fences that's out there. Now that fence is
- 11 located 10 feet away from the toe of the railroad spur,
- 12 which is built into the levee. So it's actually about 15
- 13 to 20 feet away from the levee toe. We believe it's
- 14 necessary for -- to keep people from driving on the sand
- 15 berm. But if the Reclamation Board has concerns about the
- 16 fence, that's for other reasons.
- 17 SECRETARY DOHERTY: I'm glad you addressed that,
- 18 because I was going to ask you again about that. Why
- 19 would it be necessary to have that fence if the other
- 20 berm, the long berm, is not fenced?
- 21 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: The long berm is
- 22 fenced. It has a fence that runs along the land side toe
- 23 of it. I was out there yesterday.
- 24 SECRETARY DOHERTY: Oh, when was it put up? Just
- 25 recently?

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1 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: I'm not sure.
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- 2 On your way home today, it's just around the corner. You
- 3 can take a quick look.
- 4 SECRETARY DOHERTY: Was the berm compressed? The
- 5 long berm, was it compressed?
- 6 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Was it
- 7 compacted?
- 8 SECRETARY DOHERTY: Yes.
- 9 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: We had a problem
- 10 with the soil that we were -- soil source was -- and what
- 11 we found was when we compacted it, it degraded and became
- 12 more fine than what our specification requirement had
- 13 listed. So we worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and
- 14 reached an agreement on how that material should be placed
- in a manner to meet its objective.
- 16 SECRETARY DOHERTY: So the little triangular berm
- 17 at the cement yard, was it -- is it of the same
- 18 composition.
- 19 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Yes, it is.
- 20 GENERAL MANAGER PUNIA: Jay Punia, General Manager
- 21 of the Reclamation Board. I just want to clarify our
- 22 procedure on how we do the final inspection on these
- 23 permits. Rec Board doesn't have the inspectors. But DWR
- 24 does the final inspection on the projects on behalf of the
- 25 Reclamation Board. George Qualley is here. His staff and

1 the inspectors we will be finally doing the inspections to

- 2 make sure that the permit work is done. And then they
- 3 will close this permit. These are open permits at this
- 4 time. The final inspections have not been completed yet,
- 5 but it will be passed, and the inspectors will verify that
- 6 the work has been done in accordance with the permit
- 7 issued by the Reclamation Board.
- 8 And at that time, the permit will be closed. But
- 9 at this time, all these permits are open permits. The
- 10 department inspector has verified all the permits.
- 11 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: I have one
- 12 clarification on the location of the fence, for the
- 13 seepage berm that's between Highway 70 and the UP
- 14 Railroad, the land side toe of the seepage berm.
- MR. ARCHER: I need to clarify --
- 16 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: I would
- 17 actually like to invite the Rec Board, if you would, to do
- 18 a tour or something, of the facilities too, to go out and
- 19 look at that particular area.
- 20 PRESIDENT CARTER: Could you please clarify with
- 21 regard to the Cemex seepage berm, that material was placed
- 22 and not just dumped. And the pictures that we saw at the
- 23 last Board meeting, that Mr. Archer provided, showed what
- 24 appeared to be spoils or piles that were dumped out of a
- 25 dump truck or something like that. What did we look at

1 last time? Are you familiar with those? Do you recall

- 2 those pictures?
- 3 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: I'm not familiar
- 4 with those pictures. There's -- the one difference
- 5 between the Cemex berm and the berm between Highway 70 and
- 6 Union Pacific Railroad is that we placed the topsoil on
- 7 top of the sand berm, downstream of UP railroad, and that
- 8 was put out to allow vehicles to be able to drive over it
- 9 and not have other problems. I think the best thing to do
- 10 would be to have our construction manager and have our
- 11 lead engineer come in, from Kleinfelder, at the next
- 12 subcommittee meeting, if you have questions on how that
- 13 material was placed how it was compacted and things of
- 14 that nature. I'm not prepared to answer.
- 15 MR. ARCHER: May I finish? And I will get done
- 16 and out of your way?
- 17 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Please.
- 18 MR. ARCHER: To clarify Ric Reinhardt's statement,
- 19 on the Linda levee, once again, down on the sides, he said
- they are 2.50 or whatever to whatever.
- 21 This is the Kleinfelder report from 2004. Now, I
- 22 know he's done it recently, for Three Rivers. But this
- one is as good today as it was then, as far as flattening
- 24 the side of the levees. Because you have not touched the
- 25 side of those levees. The only thing that has touched the

- 1 side of those levees is rain and wind. Wind is wiping our
- 2 levee -- it's eroding.
- 3 Now, he said, the calculated factors of safety for
- 4 the rapid drawdown condition of 1.0 to 1.1. That's what
- 5 they were in 2004, 1.0 to 1.1, Mr. Reinhardt.
- 6 And today, you are saying, they have room to 2.5,
- 7 whatever your numbers were. It's impossible, sir, for it
- 8 to grow unless you went out there and piled stuff on
- 9 there, to straighten up the levee.
- 10 Go ahead.
- 11 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: You are talking
- 12 about two separate issues.
- 13 MR. ARCHER: No, I'm talking about this right
- 14 here. Stability --
- 15 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Excuse me,
- 16 Mr. Archer. Please let me respond.
- 17 You are crossing factor of safety for sudden
- 18 drawdown with a slope. What I said is the actual physical
- 19 slope is 2.7 to 1. It's not a factor of safety. That's
- 20 just a physical description of how flat that slope is. I
- 21 didn't speak to what the factor of safety is on sudden
- 22 drawdown, except to say that Kleinfelder and the --
- 23 Kleinfelder has included that it's not a problem. And
- 24 that the Corps has concurred that, for FEMA certification,
- 25 and we will be needing to do that to achieve 200-year

- 1 protection.
- 2 MR. ARCHER: So this rapid drawdown means nothing?
- 3 This rapid drawdown, I know you know it means something.
- 4 It was 1.0 to 1.1, sir, at that time. Let's go to this,
- 5 because it's important. 1.0 to 1.1. And that's what it
- 6 was in 2004. And it needs to be between 1.1 to 1.3.
- Now, is that levee 1.3 now, or is it 1.1, or have
- 8 you checked that, sir?
- 9 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: You are quoting
- 10 from a report that's been superceded and so what you need
- 11 to do is you need to go to the December 2006 Basis of
- 12 Design Report. And I'm not familiar with what it says the
- 13 sudden drawdrown requirements are, but that's the report
- 14 that you need to look at. This isn't work I performed.
- 15 This is work that Kleinfelder and HDR did. And they are
- 16 not here today to defend their analysis.
- 17 MR. ARCHER: The levee, in 1986, was failed by
- 18 rapid drawdown. Now, it seems to me like that should be
- 19 the thing you guys look at. And rapid drawdown is when
- 20 the water is up against it and the water goes down and it
- 21 takes the levee down with it.
- Now, back to that slump, sitting there, right over
- 23 the boulders. When that water comes up, if it ever does
- 24 again, and when it goes down it's going to take that levee
- 25 out. Linda levee is going to break there. And you guys

1 are going to say, "Levees break." But at least you should

- 2 try to fix it. And at the very least, do not tell us that
- 3 you are fixing them when you are not.
- 4 You haven't touched or -- could I ask you now,
- 5 have you touched any side, of any waterside, of the Linda
- 6 levee, from the bridge, Highway 70, up to the Union
- 7 Pacific Railroad, behind Wal-Mart? Have you went in there
- 8 and done any work? Any of you can answer. I mean, that
- 9 should be easy, because you are all in charge of Three
- 10 Rivers and whatnot.
- 11 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: We've concluded
- 12 that no work is required to.
- MR. ARCHER: Sir, I can't hear you.
- 14 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: We have
- 15 concluded that no work is required for FEMA certification.
- 16 The Corps of Engineers has concurred with that opinion.
- 17 MR. ARCHER: John Lewis has concurred -- or --
- 18 yes, he's the only one.
- 19 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: In fact, I
- 20 would like to add to what Ric was saying. At the last Rec
- 21 Board meeting, not at our request, but at the state Rec
- 22 Board action, they have reissued a permit that would
- 23 preclude us from doing work in that area, when we are
- 24 ready to go forward to do it. There's a new permit for
- 25 that area, between the reaches you are talking from,

1 Highway 70 to UPRR Railroad. Our current permit no longer

- 2 authorizes us to do that work and it's not in that permit.
- 3 MR. ARCHER: You are not authorized to do work
- 4 that will save 40,000 people? That's why I say you need
- 5 to be out of here and let the government take it over.
- 6 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: What we will be
- 7 doing in that regard is that we -- they did modify the
- 8 permit at the meeting because of the basic nature of our
- 9 work and what we were authorized to do during the
- 10 construction season, last construction season.
- 11 What Three Rivers will do is, we will work with
- 12 the State Board staff and the Rec Board to proceed with
- 13 our goals and achieving 200-year flood protection for that
- 14 breach, between the UPRR and Highway 70. We believe it
- 15 already meets the hundred-year protection. And it's under
- 16 the certification process with the Corps.
- 17 MR. ARCHER: Hey, I can't talk with you people.
- 18 Thank you.
- 19 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Thank you, Mr. Archer.
- 20 Other comments or questions on the item, on the
- 21 agenda? Please?
- MS. HOFMAN: My name is from Frances Hofman. I
- 23 live down in the mud flats, in southern Yuba County. All
- 24 I want to know, is I received a handout and it had a
- 25 permit number on it. Has that permit been amended?

1 Because you are all talking about this. The Reclamation

- 2 Board said that they are going to inspect this levee. And
- 3 all I'm asking, has this permit been amended to change the
- 4 different kinds of material, the rock placement, that the
- 5 Reclamation Board approved.
- 6 When you approved the permit, there was plans.
- 7 Have those plans been amended by the Reclamation Board?
- 8 If they have, shouldn't this permit carry an amendment
- 9 number? Or I'm just asking, where are we? We've got like
- 10 two sets of plans going on. And I just -- that's the
- 11 reason I'm here.
- 12 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: My name is Dan Fua.
- 13 Reclamation Board staff.
- 14 You are talking about Permit 18095; correct?
- MS. HOFMAN: That's correct.
- 16 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: Okay. Let me clarify
- 17 for everybody that, the chief engineer made a presentation
- 18 last Friday. And it was made clear that 18095 only
- 19 authorizes work between UPRR and Simpson lane. It is true
- 20 that Three Rivers applied for work between Highway 70 and
- 21 Simpson Lane. However, the Three Rivers did not submit
- 22 the required detailed engineering design of its work. So
- 23 the staff of the Reclamation Board did not authorize them.
- MS. HOFMAN: Sir, could I ask just a simple
- 25 question?

1 As I understand, the public said, in 18095, when

- 2 the permit was originally issued, in the issuing of that
- 3 permit, there was plans in which riprap was to be placed
- 4 at a certain area.
- 5 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: There were plans, but
- 6 they were not detailed enough for staff to authorize them.
- 7 And that also includes the three-to-one slope under
- 8 segment B. Or I think you call it -- or is it A? But any
- 9 way, A, B, C, and D were not authorized, for lack of
- 10 detailed engineering plans.
- 11 And we, staff of the Reclamation Board, admitted
- 12 that we made a mistake on describing the location of the
- 13 project. It should have -- and that's -- that's the
- 14 amendment that we made. We corrected the location of that
- 15 permit.
- MS. HOFMAN: It would really help the general
- 17 public if -- it appears from this permit number, that
- 18 things are completed. The things that are not completed,
- 19 the things that are still being decided how they are going
- 20 to be done, should be listed.
- 21 What I want to know, and the reason I'm here
- 22 asking this question, we have so many dollars budgeted.
- 23 Do we need to go out and collect some more money in which
- 24 to finish this, if there's any more work to be done?
- 25 Should the general public pick up this thing and think

- 1 everything is completed?
- What I'm saying is, it appears that there's things
- 3 that's not completed. And that's why I made my comments,
- 4 that it's not clear.
- 5 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: This is Permit 18095.
- 6 And essentially, the project location is between the Union
- 7 Pacific Railroad and Simpson Lane. And the project
- 8 authorized under this permit is the slurry wall, from UPRR
- 9 to about 500 feet beyond Simpson Lane. The other project
- 10 authorizes the resloping of the levee on the waterside,
- 11 the three-to-one, again, between UPRR and Simpson Lane.
- 12 And the third component is the seepage berm, the
- 13 triangular seepage berm near the Cemex plant.
- 14 Those are all. Three Rivers applied for more,
- 15 between Highway 70 and UPRR, if you can give me that
- 16 slide.
- --o0o--
- 18 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: So we were supposed to
- 19 have some riprap west of Highway 70, resloping of the
- 20 water side slope, after Highway 70, about -- I forget how
- 21 many feet now, but it's not the entire levee.
- Those were not approved, as I've said, because
- 23 our -- we did not receive the detailed plans. So we did
- 24 not issue a permit to that.
- 25 And again, staff admitted that when we issued the

1 first permit, we described it as from west of UPRR to

- 2 Simpson Lane, which we admitted to be a mistake. And
- 3 that's why we amended that permit, to correct that
- 4 location. But even the original permit correctly
- 5 described the authorized component of the project.
- 6 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: I'm not sure I
- 7 understand this, but I wanted to go through it one more
- 8 time.
- 9 A application for a permit is submitted that
- 10 included work. That was not approved as part of the
- 11 permit? The work that was not approved was one at a time.
- 12 The rock work, at sort of the point that's formed, where
- 13 Highway 70 goes across the levee -- that was not approved.
- 14 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: Correct.
- 15 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Raising the levee was
- 16 not approved. Flattening the side slope to three to one
- 17 was not approved.
- 18 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: Correct. The Highway
- 19 70 portion.
- 20 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. From Highway 70
- 21 to UPRR?
- 22 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: It's not the entire --
- 23 Ric, you can --
- 24 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Highway 70 --
- 25 THE REPORTER: I can't hear you.

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1 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: You're correct.
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- 2 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. So it was in the
- 3 description of work that was supposed to be done but not
- 4 permitted, due to, at least in the case of some of the
- 5 work, inadequate design. In the case of the levee
- 6 raising, the Board hasn't made a decision one way or the
- 7 other on raising the levee.
- 8 Let me ask you folks, do you plan, still, to do
- 9 that work? Did I miss anything that was in the
- 10 description of work but not the levee?
- 11 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: Those are the four.
- 12 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Four is fine. All
- 13 right. Do you still plan on doing the work?
- 14 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Right now, we're
- 15 waiting on the decision of the Board on raising the levee.
- 16 When the Board makes that decision, we're going to go
- 17 flatten the slope at some point.
- 18 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. And so in your
- 19 mind, at least, there's no need to flatten that levee
- 20 slope, to three to one, unless the levees were raised?
- 21 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: No. In order to
- 22 achieve 200-year protection, it is required. That's what
- 23 the Corps has told us, is that it is not required to
- 24 achieve 100-year protection. So we don't need it to
- 25 certify the levee, but we do need it to complete the

- 1 overall program.
- 2 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. So there are four
- 3 items here that we have had testimony on at several
- 4 meetings, which finally has clarified they were never
- 5 permitted in the first place.
- 6 They seem to hinge primarily on raising the levee,
- 7 at least in the case of the three-to-one side slope. The
- 8 rock at that point, where it is? Or that's it?
- 9 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: We're in the
- 10 process of doing a two-dimensional hydraulic modeling, in
- 11 conjunction with the Corps to make a determination of what
- 12 erosion repair requirements are going to be needed to be
- 13 made as part of this project. Right now, I'm not aware of
- 14 any erosion problems that need to be fixed in this reach,
- in order to achieve 200-year.
- 16 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. All right.
- 17 Thank you. Other public comments? Thank you.
- 18 SECRETARY DOHERTY: I need to know, when you are
- 19 talking about redoing the slope, are you talking -- if I'm
- 20 looking north, are you talking about that small segment to
- 21 my left, or the longer segment to my right, all the way
- 22 down to the Southern Pacific Railroad?
- 23 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: I think much of
- 24 the slope in that reach is three to one, and it's uneven.
- 25 There are portions that are steeper. And so I think it's

- 1 intermittent.
- 2 I would be happy to prepare a figure and put it in
- 3 our monthly report when we come before you in April, so
- 4 that you can see exactly where the slope flattening needs
- 5 to be.
- 6 SECRETARY DOHERTY: And so the stone placement
- 7 was, once again, looking north, to the left side of that
- 8 Highway 70?
- 9 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: My recollection
- 10 is that, in the application, which I don't have here,
- 11 before me is that the rock protection was around the
- 12 Highway 70 embankment.
- 13 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: All right. I think
- 14 we're ready to move on to the next item on the agenda.
- 15 THE REPORTER: Could we take a five-minute break?
- VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Yes, it is, according to
- 17 my watch, 2:30. We will resume at 20 minutes to 3:00.
- 18 (Thereupon a break was taken in
- 19 proceedings.)
- 20 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Can we come to order,
- 21 please. We are now moving on, after an exhausting
- 22 discussion on the permit status, but what I hope in the
- 23 end, has everybody in a position where they understand
- 24 where we are and that we are not necessarily done fixing
- 25 the levee on the Yuba, but everything that's permitted

- 1 here has been completed.
- 2 We want to move on to B, which is status and plans
- 3 for Phase 4 of the Feather River Improvement Program.
- 4 On this item, we're going to go through these one
- 5 at a time, offer the opportunity for comments. We are
- 6 going to time ours. We are not going to impose a formal
- 7 limit, but when we hit five minutes, we are going to try
- 8 and attract your attention and ask you, out of respect for
- 9 the rest of us, to try and wrap up.
- 10 So Jay's going to be our timekeeper, and we want
- 11 to go ahead and move forward. The first item on B, which
- 12 is Status and Plans for Phase 4 Feather River Improvement
- 13 Program, is the status of the State's review of the
- 14 hydraulic analysis.
- 15 Qualley, could you update us on this and tell us
- 16 what your position is on that?
- 17 MR. QUALLEY: Okay. Over the last several weeks,
- 18 DWR staff has been engaged in discussions with TRLIA
- 19 technical staff and consultants regarding hydraulic
- 20 analysis for the proposed Feather River setback project.
- 21 Our primary interest was to ensure that the hydraulic
- 22 modeling, or ensure ourselves that the hydraulic modeling
- 23 was consistent with standard practice, and look at the
- 24 assumptions and analysis that was done, and particularly
- 25 in connection with the reduction associated with the

1 setback levee. That's obviously a very important part of

- 2 it, the analysis associated with that project.
- 3 We knew that there -- I want to talk a little bit
- 4 more about the global issues later. But we knew that the
- 5 model that was being used by MBK Engineers was one that
- 6 was based on the Corps model, and that he had recalibrated
- 7 it, using some additional professional data.
- 8 And the recalibrated model produces different
- 9 water surface profiles. The one thing we were interested
- 10 in was, in comparison of -- you know, without project,
- 11 with project, for various types of assumptions, whether
- 12 there was consistency between the model that was -- that
- 13 MBK recalibrated the model and the Corps model.
- Now, associated with this, the Department and
- 15 TRLIA and a number of entities have been requesting the
- 16 Corps for some time, to look into this, themselves, and
- 17 look at the MBK model and do their evaluation in detail.
- 18 They had done kind of a cursory evaluation of the
- 19 model. They haven't done a detailed evaluation yet. So
- 20 we've had discussions with the Corps recently, where they
- 21 have committed to look at the model. There was some
- 22 funding we provided a while back. For a while, we
- 23 couldn't find a way to get to it. Sometimes you got a pot
- 24 of money there, and you can't figure out a way to make use
- of it. But they have attempted to do it, and we haven't

- 1 established a schedule yet.
- 2 So in our discussion with TRLIA and MBK, we
- 3 indicated that we were really interested in seeing the
- 4 comparison of, you know, how the -- how this comparison
- 5 would look using the Corps model versus the direction that
- 6 they were showing and the water surface profile they were
- 7 showing, with the recalibrated model.
- 8 So they have volunteered to do that run. And I
- 9 don't know how long it's going to be until the Corps does
- 10 that. So we talked the other day. They mentioned they'll
- 11 do that. And so we'll be looking forward to seeing --
- 12 going through the results. They expressed confidence that
- 13 they will verify that. So we will look at that when we
- 14 get it.
- 15 On the larger global issue, in fact, this was a
- 16 topic that was touched on at the workshops that the Board
- 17 had a couple weeks ago, on hydraulic mitigation. The idea
- 18 that, you know, some public entity, whether it's the
- 19 Corps, Department of Water Resources, whoever it would be,
- 20 really good if some entity like that could be more of a
- 21 keeper of the model for different areas. And this isn't
- 22 just for you. It's for different areas in the Central
- 23 Valley, that we're modeling, as we move forward with our
- 24 education, planning and, you know, looking towards the
- 25 number of projects to improve the functioning of the

- 1 system.
- 2 And the day before, they had mentioned the same
- 3 thing at the workshop. So I just wanted to mention to the
- 4 Board, today, that we are going to be engaging in
- 5 discussions with the Corps, amongsts ourselves, to try and
- 6 make that happen, because we think that is appropriate.
- 7 And these projects are really important, and the models
- 8 that are used are not only that it's software that's
- 9 accepted by the Corps, but the calibration -- as it goes
- 10 through time, there's additional information that becomes
- 11 available, additional surveys that get done, as we have
- 12 high water incidents, high water events, there's
- 13 additional high water data. So we want to make sure that
- 14 that information gets incorporated into models, in
- 15 different areas as it goes along.
- So we're going to be, like I said, looking to find
- 17 a way to, you know, make sure that happens, whether
- 18 there's a way to have a model that's available for
- 19 whichever entity is in certain areas.
- 20 So in summary, in our review of the model to date,
- 21 the Feather River levee setback, we're comfortable with
- 22 the methodology that MBK Engineers is doing with the
- 23 modeling. We haven't seen any flaws that their approach.
- 24 And currently, we're just interested in seeing this
- 25 comparison growing and what they are going to do with the

- 1 Corps modeling, to assure ourselves that the analysis
- 2 tracks relative with that project versus the Corps project
- 3 in reference to the models.
- 4 So that's all the comments I have for now.
- 5 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. Thank you.
- 6 George, what I hear you say is that basically, so far,
- 7 there's no reason to necessarily suspect that there's big
- 8 problems, but if you are being really careful in this and
- 9 are bringing the Corps in to help DWR and for that matter,
- 10 TRLIA. Be certain that the monitoring results we have
- 11 here are reflective of what we would expect if we did some
- 12 of the things elsewhere in the system and try to think
- 13 about getting the system going; is that correct?
- MR. QUALLEY: Yeah, and this is probably going to
- 15 be one single systemwide model. I mean, you will have it
- 16 calibrated for different parts of the system but if --
- 17 being whatever -- you know, whatever reach of the system
- 18 is being looked at, if there's a model, whether it's the
- 19 local entity, the consultants, or state or federal
- 20 government, we kind of agree that it is the model that we
- 21 want to use to do the analysis.
- VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Thank you.
- One comment that I think I'd like to make is, DWR
- 24 chief of flood management comes monthly and gives the
- 25 Board a status update. I wonder if we could get the

1 status of the response to the model, what the status of

- 2 that is. Because we're coming up on a time where modeling
- 3 is comfortable and money is available.
- 4 MR. QUALLEY: I can certainly talk to Rob about
- 5 that, and keeping in mind that it's not just with respect
- 6 to this project. It's something that we'll deal with on
- 7 virtually any of the projects that will be coming to our
- 8 attention.
- 9 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Thank you. Now, are
- 10 there questions from the board or staff on this?
- 11 Questions?
- 12 PRESIDENT CARTER: Mr. Qualley, were you involved
- 13 at all or what -- was the hydraulic modeling used to
- 14 define the actual path of the setback? Are the hydraulic
- 15 considerations done after the relocation of the levee is
- 16 put in, or does it drive where the location is put of the
- 17 levee, the setback?
- 18 MR. QUALLEY: I wouldn't be able to respond to
- 19 which came first, whether we did ask the applicant that.
- 20 I guess the question is whether alternative modeling was
- 21 done to determine how far back is the appropriate place to
- 22 put the setback levee?
- 23 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Can you answer that?
- 24 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: We evaluated
- 25 several alternative alignments, and they were based

1 largely on two criteria. One of them is hydraulics, how

- 2 they affected water surface both up and down the setback.
- 3 But the other, probably more overriding consideration, was
- 4 foundation conditions.
- 5 The existing Feather River levee in this reach
- 6 overlays very sandy soils, old channels, and we wanted to
- 7 move the levee to a location that had better foundation
- 8 conditions. And so the selected alignment has the best
- 9 foundation conditions of all of the alignments that have
- 10 been considered.
- 11 PRESIDENT CARTER: Is there -- how precise is the
- 12 foundation analysis? I mean, if the levee is moved a
- 13 hundred feet to the east or a hundred feet to the west,
- 14 does it -- I'm just wondering, how magical is this line
- 15 that we've drawn on this map, here?
- 16 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: The western
- 17 limit of the line is based on -- we took borings running
- 18 from west to east, to look at how the foundation varied as
- 19 we moved it farther from the east.
- 20 And so we took -- we selected an alignment from a
- 21 geotechnical perspective. Before we looked at the
- 22 hydraulics -- that was an alternative, on how far east you
- 23 could go before you hit the slope. You could go farther
- 24 west and make the setback even bigger. But that's as far
- 25 as we need to go to hit a better foundation condition.

1 PRESIDENT CARTER: So you are saying, it would go

- 2 farther east, but it's not advisable to be farther west?
- 3 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: That's correct,
- 4 without incurring additional costs and poorer foundation
- 5 conditions.
- 6 PRESIDENT CARTER: Okay. Thanks.
- 7 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Questions from the
- 8 public on the model?
- 9 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. Tom Harris, Hofman Ranch.
- 10 There's nothing more critical to what Three Rivers
- 11 is doing than getting an appropriate hydraulic modeling,
- 12 however the scientists the engineers, and those who border
- 13 on the occult put it together. And it's disturbing, under
- 14 a public safety perspective, that projects are proceeding
- 15 with this much confusion and lack of precision, if that's
- 16 the right word, on the hydraulic impacts, both intended
- 17 and unintended.
- 18 The workshop, I thought that the Board held here a
- 19 couple of weeks ago was outstanding on that point. And I
- 20 hope that the Board will continue to look at what is
- 21 contained in that document.
- Now, I mean this with all due respect to Three
- 23 Rivers. MBK works for Three Rivers. It's employed by
- 24 Three Rivers. It's an advocate for Three Rivers.
- 25 What's needed here is either some peer review by

1 an independent engineering firm, that is an expert in

- 2 hydrology, separate and distinct from the Department of
- 3 Water Resources and the Corps of Engineers.
- 4 Mr. Foley, who has spoke before you many times has
- 5 suggested, there is a group of intellectuals, at UC
- 6 Berkeley available. I have no idea what they cost, how
- 7 much time they take, or whatever. But it may be helpful
- 8 for the Board to get independent look-see here as to what
- 9 the presuppositions and the suppositions and the
- 10 assumptions are, for purposes of doing a setback levee, on
- 11 the Bear River, which we have challenged many times.
- 12 Do we really know the hydraulic impacts of that
- 13 setback, much less what you are looking at today, in the
- 14 Feather River setback? And what are the unintended
- 15 consequences with respect to those hydraulic impacts,
- 16 whether they are upstream, downstream across from the
- 17 levee that is being created at a setback?
- 18 And let me remind the Board that I believe the
- 19 CEQA analysis and the permit that is going to be requested
- 20 here is under state law, not under federal law, as in a
- 21 408 permit.
- 22 And you know, I had been concerned that this
- 23 project is out of sync. It's proceeding as if this was a
- 24 state control project, and they are going to do it as a
- 25 backup levee. That's the euphemism of the day, which will

- 1 magically convert to a setback levee at a point in time
- 2 when it can be completed as a backup levee. And then the
- 3 request will be to get the appropriate permits to tear
- 4 down the old levee.
- 5 Now, I have no idea what the hydraulic impacts of
- 6 that kind of step and phasing and sequencing is, if any.
- 7 But I can tell you that there is great concern from the
- 8 standpoint of public safety, that the Board has this one
- 9 shot for purposes of an overall -- I don't know whether
- 10 you want to call it a base model that's going to have
- 11 nuances that are site specific or what.
- But I would strongly recommend, and I have the
- 13 greatest respect for MBK. But we really do need to have a
- 14 peer review. We need to have an independent look, perhaps
- 15 from the Berkeley folks, in order work to with the
- 16 Department of Water Resources and the Corps of Engineers.
- 17 And you might as well throw FEMA into there, because
- 18 again, I am concerned about the unintended consequences.
- 19 Thank you.
- 20 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Ms. Hofman, just
- 21 a point of clarification. I just want to make it clear
- 22 that the model was reviewed by the Corps of Engineers.
- 23 What comes into question is how much detail they put into
- 24 the review of calibration. But they submitted comments.
- 25 They responded to those comments. I just wanted to make

- 1 clear that this work was not done in a vacuum.
- 2 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: I too have one comment.
- 3 And it has to do with the word "precision" in the same
- 4 sentence as the work "hydraulic modeling." And while the
- 5 engineers will argue for months about the modeling
- 6 difference of a couple tenths, it's important that people
- 7 not forget that that is potentially the kind of change
- 8 that would be easily the result of trees stacking up
- 9 against a bridge, erosion that takes place during a major
- 10 storm. There is no precision in hydraulic modeling.
- 11 What you get is guidelines and an understanding of
- 12 how the hydraulics are going to be affected. But it's the
- 13 very reason there are freeboard on levees.
- 14 And so, I will get off of it for now.
- 15 Any other comments from the public?
- 16 MS. HOFMAN: I think I turned a card in.
- 17 My name is Frances Hofman, and I'm appearing for
- 18 myself as well as Hofman Ranch.
- 19 I'm one of the victims of the Army Corps of
- 20 Engineers's genius in 1936. They put in a project, and it
- 21 was state of the art. We're still fighting it, and I hear
- 22 the same rhetoric going on today, that the minutes reflect
- 23 back in the 1920s. I went to TRLIA and I asked them for a
- 24 signed statement that you said that this setback levee and
- 25 all the work they were doing would not increase the water

- 1 that come up on my ranch.
- 2 I have been waiting for nine months for that
- 3 letter. What I got is a statement that they done -- that
- 4 the FEMA map is wrong. The FEMA map shows that my entire
- 5 ranch is flooded, which is worse than it's ever been. So
- 6 I have FEMA telling me I've got a disaster. My entire
- 7 ranch is going under water. TRLIA is telling me that it's
- 8 going to be better, but I don't have a letter.
- 9 But they are telling me that more water will come
- 10 into the Feather River from the Yuba River with the
- 11 setback. I want to know, from your studies, how much --
- 12 the percentage of water, the day before the 1986 flood,
- 13 would be coming into that Feather River from the Yuba
- 14 River. Because we were drowning the day before the flood
- 15 come. It got higher, but there wasn't much left.
- And what I want to know is, when you put this
- 17 additional water into the Feather River, what does that do
- 18 to the interceptor? Is there enough capacity two miles
- 19 down, from the interceptor, Bear River, Feather River, and
- 20 Plumas, to take this water? I've asked TRLIA what the
- 21 percentage of the increase of the flow of the Yuba. I get
- 22 zero answers.
- 23 What I'm saying is, we need to study the entire
- 24 thing. We have TRLIA that started out at 25 million, are
- 25 now up in the many hundreds of millions. Nothing is done.

- 1 This is piecemeal. It's like a lady that's trying to
- 2 build a quilt, and she only has scraps. We know the quilt
- 3 is horrible when it gets done.
- 4 What I'm saying is, I'm down there, at the bottom.
- 5 And when you ask TRLIA for a hard answer of the percentage
- 6 of increase of water, from that Yuba River into the
- 7 Feather, because that's going to affect the Bear. It's
- 8 going to affect the interceptor. There's no capacity down
- 9 there now. There was no capacity below the Bear and the
- 10 Feather. That's why it passes in, today, into the
- 11 interceptor.
- 12 If the Bear could flow freely, and the Feather
- 13 could flow freely, the interceptor couldn't come back.
- 14 Now we're going to open it up so more water comes down
- 15 there.
- What I'm saying is, give me some hard answers.
- 17 And if you -- if the engineers are going to give hard
- 18 answers as to what's going to happen -- and I understand
- 19 it's five minutes. And when I said that they are going to
- 20 give me some hard answers, let's back it up with a
- 21 signature and a number, instead of giving me one of these
- 22 things that God only knows. And it's like the chairman
- 23 today said, you get all different kinds of answers.
- 24 What I'm saying is, if we have all this capacity
- 25 below the interceptor, below the Bear, in the Feather, why

1 is the Bear not able to get out into the Feather?

- 2 Thank you.
- 3 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Thank you, Ms. Hofman.
- 4 This is a hydraulic mitigation question.
- 5 Anyway, let us move on.
- 6 One more question?
- 7 MR. RICE: On the hydraulic, yes, sir.
- 8 Thank you. I will be brief. This is referring to
- 9 Mr. Reinhardt's comments about samplings and data that we
- 10 have, as far as east-west placement. With all due
- 11 respect, Mr. Reinhardt -- I'm sorry. Thomas Rice, Rice
- 12 River Ranch.
- 13 With all due respect, Mr. Reinhardt, we do not
- 14 have all the data. I have an illustrated example that I
- 15 have a parcel. It's under the extreme edge of the current
- 16 design path. From the very beginning, I was one of the
- 17 few who made available appropriate access to my parcel,
- 18 for surveying, for soil testing, for sample boring, and
- 19 even to consider the features and values.
- I made this offer repeatedly, all documented.
- 21 First to TRLIA and then to Bender Rosenthal. Yet to date,
- 22 not one on-site visit has been performed. All the design
- 23 work in this area was done from aerial maps, which they
- 24 have admitted to me, without the benefit and even the
- 25 necessity for on-site validation and confirmation.

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1 At an in-person and direct meeting with me on
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- 2 March 7th, their engineer, Larry Dacus, actually admitted
- 3 that no on-site work has been done for a significant
- 4 length of the proposed setback. The nearest work was
- 5 hundred of feet away in a nearby orchard. The engineer
- 6 even pointed this out to me on my map, showing an area
- 7 near Ella to -- between Anderson and Country Club, where
- 8 they had not done on-site examinations, borings, testings.
- 9 They are planning to come back and do so, but after we
- 10 already have a proposed design.
- 11 So with all due respect, how can we know where the
- 12 proper east-west line is if we have not had the samples,
- 13 if we have not had the due diligence to go and actually
- 14 look at the soils, look at the borings, look at the
- 15 structures and to say we truly know how much land we do or
- 16 do not have to destroy before we make that decision.
- 17 We are already at the point that we have made,
- 18 supposedly, some decisions and some designs without the
- 19 data. And now how can we have the confidence, that if we
- 20 go back and get the data, that we will have the courage to
- 21 say we need to adjust our designs.
- Thank you.
- VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Before you step down,
- 24 could you show us on the map where your property is and
- 25 where is the closest soil boring?

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1 MR. RICE: Yes, sir.
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- 2 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Do you have that?
- 3 MR. RICE: My parcel is here, labeled on Figure 1,
- 4 is number 97. From this range, roughly, through to here,
- 5 their engineer pointed as this being the area in what is
- 6 known as the Naumes Orchard, where the nearest borings are
- 7 done, approximately three to four hundred feet away. No
- 8 sampling has been done, that they've admitted to, in this
- 9 area, on the proposed foundation path.
- 10 How are we doing a design when our nearest data is
- 11 farther away? This is another case where they do not have
- 12 access and where access was repeatedly and often offered.
- 13 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. Your parcel is
- 14 97?
- MR. RICE: It is number 97 on Figure 1.
- 16 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. Thank you.
- 17 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: What might be
- 18 most helpful if I presented to the Board at the next
- 19 meeting a map showing exactly where we've made
- 20 explorations. We have obtained explorations along the
- 21 selected path. The explorations that we obtained on the
- 22 Naumes parcel, we're looking at some of the other
- 23 alternative alignments. I think it's just better to give
- 24 you a map showing you those exact locations.
- 25 SECRETARY DOHERTY: So you got permits from all of

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1 the various landowners here, to go in and do Corps
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- 2 samplings; is that right?
- 3 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: We got right of
- 4 entries on all of the landowners who were willing.
- 5 MR. MORRISON: A majority of the landowners --
- 6 some property owners were not willing to allow access.
- 7 SECRETARY DOHERTY: So of this right-of-way, how
- 8 many landowners are involved?
- 9 MR. MORRISON: I will get into that a little bit
- 10 more in detail, in the next discussion. But there's
- 11 approximately 30 property owners covering 48 parcels on
- 12 the overall project.
- Bob Morrison, Three Rivers right-of-way manager.
- 14 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. Other comments?
- 15 Seeing none, we're going to move on to the second
- 16 item under 3B, which is the cash flow projection for
- 17 existing and future right-of-way and project expenditures.
- 18 I'd like to just remind folks, this came in
- 19 connection with, are the uncertainties associated with the
- 20 final price that's going to be determined in court on some
- 21 of existing condemnations accounted for in the cash
- 22 projections. Are the projections to get funding necessary
- 23 for this project?
- So can I turn this over to you, Mr. Brunner?
- TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: Yes, and thank

- 1 you.
- I think you did a good recap as why we're here
- 3 today to do the briefing.
- 4 What we're going to do is to -- I want to give a
- 5 very short overview of project orientation for Board
- 6 members but also for the audience, so you're aware of what
- 7 we are doing.
- 8 We're then going to talk about the time line. I
- 9 would do that on the project as to how it relates
- 10 together. And then I'm going to ask Bob Morrison to come
- 11 speak about the land acquisition. And to spend some time
- 12 talking about the middle part there, about the land
- 13 acquisition votes that we've already taken, and that we
- 14 plan to be doing on our project.
- 15 And then when Bob is done, I will come back and
- 16 recap how it fits into the cash flow for you.
- 17 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was
- 18 presented as follows.)
- 19 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: Quick recap for
- 20 folks. This is the TRLIA project. It's 29 miles of
- 21 levees. You will see this many times as well. But this
- 22 area up here.
- 23 This area here is the Yuba river. This is the
- 24 area that we were spending quite a bit of time on the last
- 25 discussion on, where we're working on this part. And the

1 work, we believe, is completed, if I can use that term.

- 2 This is the Western Pacific Interceptor Canal that
- 3 we worked on and is in for certification. This is -- from
- 4 Highway 70 out to Simpson Lane is also on certification of
- 5 the Corps, for the hundred-year level. Western Pacific
- 6 Interceptor Canal is in the Corps for certification.
- 7 The Bear River setback, in here, is also in the
- 8 Corps for certification.
- 9 Then from here to here is the Feather River
- 10 project.
- 11 --000--
- 12 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: I show this
- 13 slide again for reference, because if it comes up later
- on, in Bob's discussion, about Segments 1, 2, and 3, and
- 15 what we are doing for the orientation for folks, Segment 1
- 16 is this portion of the Feather, from the Bear confluence
- 17 up to Star Bend, and from Star Bend right around Shanghai
- 18 Bend. But in that proximity is Segment 2. This is where
- 19 the setback takes place. The setback is this alignment
- 20 here. And you can see it on the real estate map, that's
- 21 up here, on the front here. And this is the existing
- 22 alignment of the levee.
- 23 From here to here is the Segment 3, up to the Yuba
- 24 point.
- 25 --000--

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1 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: This is the
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- 2 project schedule for the efforts that we have. As I
- 3 mentioned earlier, Phase 1, 2, and 3, this work is in for
- 4 certification. And that's what this line represents here,
- 5 is that we did turn that in. We have been working
- 6 diligently with the Corps, and we believe that we're close
- 7 to completing this work.
- 8 Segments 1 and 3 on the Feather is being worked
- 9 through in the design. We hope to go out for construction
- 10 bid proposals as soon as perhaps next month, and to award
- 11 in the May/June time period and start construction of the
- 12 project.
- We'll be talking a little bit about that in my
- 14 briefing, after Bob. And then also we get to the Item 4,
- 15 talk about revised funding plans for our project, as to
- 16 where funding is coming in and out of the project for the
- 17 future state funding and how does that relate to our
- 18 effort.
- 19 This right through here is -- on Segment 3 is a
- 20 decision point that represents -- our original goal was to
- 21 complete Segments 1 and 3 within this timeframe, which is
- 22 the 2007 construction season.
- 23 As we work with our funding right now, we may not
- 24 be able to do that in the funding -- and the construction
- will be extended to 2008, still achieving our 2008

1 completion goal that we have with the Rec Board. And that

- 2 would be Board Segment 1 in this time period.
- 3 Segment 2 is the middle section when the setback
- 4 takes place. That's the land -- the land is orange. Let
- 5 me see across here. This purple is the land acquisition
- 6 period, where we are in the process of approaching people
- 7 now. And Bob's going to go through this in great detail
- 8 with you. But we talked about acquiring the property in
- 9 the setback area and also in the footprint. The
- 10 construction of the project, we hope to start Segment 2,
- 11 also this construction season, based upon the funding and
- 12 the projections that we're going to share with you, for
- 13 this data, as it comes to pass.
- 14 So we start the embankment, the foundation work in
- 15 September of 2007. And we move throughout the
- 16 construction season and complete the levee by 2008.
- 17 This line here, on the other side of this black
- 18 line, in 2009, is where we had addressed the existing
- 19 levee that we would be tearing down or taking out portions
- 20 of the setback for work. But that would occur in the 2009
- 21 time period.
- 22 This black line, that we have here, represents our
- 23 commitment to the State Reclamation Board, that we would
- 24 complete our project by the 2008 time period. That
- 25 represents the completion of the construction facilities

1 that achieve the 200-year flood protection by that date.

- 2 And that's our goal, and that's what we are moving to, in
- 3 working with the state funding, and the Yuba setback.
- 4 What I'm going to do here is turn to Bob Morrison,
- 5 who's going to talk and has several slides dealing with
- 6 land acquisition.
- 7 MR. MORRISON: Hi. My name is Bob Morrison. I'm
- 8 the Three Rivers right-of-way manager. What I first
- 9 wanted to do is cover -- there were seven key steps
- 10 involved in the right-of-way acquisition for public
- 11 projects. The first six are shown here. The engineers
- 12 need to actually complete the engineering. Then a survey
- 13 of the properties are completed with -- and a boundary is
- 14 established. Plats and legals are then completed for the
- 15 partial acquisition. At times, we will request a right of
- 16 entry. Mr. Rice mentioned that. And they are doing that
- on a number of properties, to do geotechnical
- 18 investigations and environmental investigations.
- 19 At that point, the appraisals are completed and
- 20 then the first written offer is given to the property
- 21 owner at not less than the appraised value.
- 22 If there are relocations, the relocation aspect of
- 23 the -- whether it be an agricultural operation or business
- 24 operation or residential operation would begin after that
- 25 first written offer is given.

1 All of this is covered as part of a -- within the

- 2 Government Code's 7267.
- 3 The next phase, the next slide --
- 4 --000--
- 5 MR. MORRISON: -- is the condemnation phase. And
- 6 ideally, we would negotiate a settlement. There are
- 7 instances where we've had to go into this, the
- 8 condemnation phase, and this is covered under the Code of
- 9 Civil Procedures 1245 and others.
- 10 And there are some various -- this phase has
- 11 changed as of January 1st, 2007. So that's very
- 12 important, as we put our schedule together, to recognize
- 13 that change.
- 14 So the resolution of necessity is necessary. We
- 15 file a complaint in eminent domain court. The key here
- 16 is, once you file that complaint, you also have to deposit
- 17 the funds in the State Treasury. You cannot file the
- 18 complaint without money. The property owner is then
- 19 served the complaint. Within 30 days, they can file an
- 20 opposition to that motion. And then Three Rivers will
- 21 also file their response.
- 22 A hearing is heard 90 days after the service. And
- then, potentially the Board of Possessions is given 30
- 24 days after the hearing.
- 25 There are various types of acquisitions that we're

- 1 acquiring for this project. There are permanent
- 2 easements. Generally, we are acquiring fee title. In
- 3 addition, we are doing temporary construction easements
- 4 and flowage easements over a number of the areas.
- 5 --000--
- 6 MR. MORRISON: I wanted to provide you a generic
- 7 timeline for the operations. The first three are the
- 8 engineering, the appraisals, and negotiations. I kind of
- 9 collapsed a number of those, the first items, into this
- 10 phase.
- 11 Generally, these can be completed in 90 days. And
- 12 from there, we then go into the statutorily mandated
- 13 timeline of 120 days, which is after they file the
- 14 complaint and deposit the money.
- 15 So from this phase, right here, from the time we
- 16 filed a complaint and deposit the money, to having
- 17 possession of a property is 120 days. So we've built that
- 18 into our schedules and are very much aware of that. We've
- 19 followed -- and are working closely with our eminent
- 20 domain attorneys to make sure that we are in line with all
- 21 of the new code of Regulatory Codes.
- --000--
- MR. MORRISON: I wanted to get a little bit more
- 24 specific into the projects. We talked about a number of
- 25 phases. Phase 1, 2 are up on the Yuba. And Phase 3 was

done on the Bear. And there's a Phase 4 along the Yuba,

- 2 that we've been working with. Also, the Olivehurst
- 3 detention basin. Those activities are generally complete.
- 4 There are 60 parcels that were affected within
- 5 that. There are still nine acquisitions that are pending.
- 6 Six are in litigation. Six parcels are in litigation;
- 7 three are still in negotiations. We're just finalizing
- 8 the numbers and hope to close the deals relatively soon.
- 9 Three Rivers has already deposited approximately
- 10 \$8.8 million with the State Treasury, on those six
- 11 litigations. And an additional 2 to 6 million dollars is
- 12 already built into the cash flow, to close all nine deals
- 13 between April and November. So again, we have built this
- 14 into the cash flow.
- 15 --00o--
- MR. MORRISON: In Phase 4, Paul talked about the
- 17 Segments 1 and 3. The Segment 1 is roughly three miles,
- 18 and Segment 3 is roughly three miles. They are
- 19 respectively south and north of the setback levee.
- 20 There are 25 parcels affected by that. We are
- 21 acquiring mainly temporary rights. And a number of those
- 22 rights are being acquired from SSJDD, Sacramento-San
- 23 Joaquin Drainage District. And we're working with Jeff
- 24 Fong in acquiring those temporary rights.
- 25 There are some permanent rights that are being

1 acquired within Segment 3 for a stability berm. And our

- 2 goal is to have the acquisition complete by May of 2007,
- 3 as Paul mentioned, the goal is to have construction on the
- 4 ground.
- 5 And roughly, right now, we have a million dollars
- 6 loaded in the cash flow for acquisitions within these
- 7 Segments 1 and 3.
- 8 --000--
- 9 MR. MORRISON: On Segment 4, there are 48 parcels
- 10 that may be affected by the project. A number of those
- 11 that are included in that are owned by Sac-San Joaquin
- 12 Drainage District. There are 30 property owners.
- 13 And the key here is that we're acquiring in
- 14 phases. So our goal is -- I've handed out a map of the
- 15 right-of-way activities. Make sure I'm doing this right.
- 16 So there --
- --o0o--
- 18 MR. MORRISON: It's difficult to see here, but
- 19 there's a blue line that goes -- that is north of Ella,
- 20 and it's better to see here. But north of Ella is the
- 21 first stage of acquisition. There are four property
- 22 owners there that we are already working with. We are in
- 23 the process of appraising their properties, and those
- 24 appraisals should be -- are going to be complete by the
- 25 first of April, and then the offers will be made shortly

- 1 thereafter.
- 2 At the same time, we are also approaching the
- 3 property owners with the idea, asking them to grant us a
- 4 right of entry to construct while negotiations are
- 5 continuing.
- 6 The Stage 2 is from Ella down to Anderson. And
- 7 there are six properties owners that are available within
- 8 this area. And the appraisals are beginning, the first
- 9 part of April. It should be done within the April
- 10 timeframe. Offers will be made to those property owners
- 11 shortly thereafter, in the May timeframe.
- 12 And then Stage 3 is south of Anderson. And
- 13 there's approximately ten property owners who are directly
- 14 affected by the levee. There are additional stages, a
- 15 Stage 4, where there are a number of property owners
- 16 behind the setback levee, that their operations can
- 17 continue through construction. Our goal is to coordinate
- 18 our efforts with them. And if there's an agricultural
- 19 operation, to allow them to continue that operation as
- 20 long as they wish.
- 21 And then Stage 5 is -- there are various borrow
- 22 pit sites that will be required. The overall goal of the
- 23 project is to gain and use the dirt in this portion of the
- 24 setback area to build the levee itself. I believe there's
- 25 roughly 4 million cubic yards of dirt required. And so

1 our goal is to use the setback area to build the levee.

- 2 And then Ric can get into that a little bit
- 3 further, if there are any questions.
- 4 SECRETARY DOHERTY: I have a question.
- 5 MR. MORRISON: Yes.
- 6 SECRETARY DOHERTY: And I may be simple, but I
- 7 want to understand something. You are going through all
- 8 of this before there is even a permit granted?
- 9 MR. MORRISON: There's been an environmental
- 10 document completed.
- 11 SECRETARY DOHERTY: Have you done the
- 12 environmental document for the federal government?
- MR. MORRISON: For this phase of right-of-way
- 14 acquisition, that is not necessary, per the
- 15 right-of-way -- the state codes.
- 16 SECRETARY DOHERTY: Now, you are calling this a
- 17 public project, which it may become in the end, but yet I
- 18 keep hearing about the builders putting up all of this
- 19 money for these projects.
- Now, is that a public project or is it a private
- 21 project?
- 22 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Three Rivers is
- 23 the implementing agency. And as a public agency, it is a
- 24 public project. And the reason that we're moving so
- 25 quickly is because of our combined goal of completing this

- 1 project in 2008.
- 2 If we wait until we receive 408 approval or the
- 3 permit, we won't complete construction in 2008. We may
- 4 not even complete construction in 2009. So we have made
- 5 an extremely aggressive program that, based on our
- 6 discussion with the Reclamation Board, and through the
- 7 Army Corps of Engineers, we're getting the nods that this
- 8 is a project that benefits public safety in the region,
- 9 that they would like to see go forward.
- 10 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: What's also worth
- 11 thinking about, as we think about the issue you've raised,
- 12 about public versus private, not only is Three Rivers a
- 13 public agency -- actually, to date, roughly 50 percent of
- 14 the funding has come from public agencies, from impact
- 15 fees raised by the counties unconnected with the
- 16 particular funding developers, by about 60-plus million
- 17 dollars from the State of California, grants from FEMA, in
- 18 excess of \$5 million.
- 19 So that certainly did not -- we're not a
- 20 wholly-owned subsidiary of the developers, as some people
- 21 implied. And in fact, moving forward with the request
- 22 that we made of DWR, for funding, once again, the
- 23 developers represent less than 50 percent of the funding.
- 24 SECRETARY DOHERTY: Thank you.
- TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: Actually, that

1 was a good segue into the next portion of this topic,

- 2 which deals with the funding.
- 3 --000--
- 4 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: This is a slide
- 5 that we showed before, at the last meeting. And what I've
- 6 done since that time -- I know the next topic right after
- 7 that deals with state funding. And I'm sure Qualley will
- 8 have some comments on that.
- 9 But the last time Rod Mayer was here, he made some
- 10 comments about the adjustments when the funding agreement
- 11 would be potentially signed, and then the earliest that we
- 12 could have funding.
- 13 It is worthwhile to point out, in this slide, what
- 14 Scott was just mentioning. Over here, this represents our
- 15 funding, to date, on our program, where we had total
- 16 revenues of 122 million. This is up to, through January.
- 17 So these Februaries are actual numbers too. But
- 18 for sake of consistency for our program and what we showed
- 19 last time, I just stayed consistent, to let people -- to
- 20 have that point of reference. You can see here that this
- 21 represents developer money of around \$69 million, that
- 22 come in out of the 122, which is roughly about -- about
- 23 half. Maybe a little bit more.
- 24 This is the DWR money that represents the Fish and
- 25 Game money, up here, that so far we received from the

1 state the \$36 million in Prop 13 money, from Department of

- 2 Water Resources and Fish and Game.
- 3 And then across here, as we do work, we get a
- 4 reimbursement program. From there, we turn in our
- 5 invoices and money comes back and this represents the
- 6 revenue stream that goes across through here.
- 7 This particular number, 7.4 million, is a fiscal
- 8 year appropriation of Fish and Game that will come to us
- 9 in this time period.
- 10 But essentially, this is money that we have
- 11 contracts existing, coming in. This line represents
- 12 our -- hopefully our early funding line item from the
- 13 state, that George will be talking about. This one right
- 14 here is the additional money that we're asking to come in
- 15 for Prop 1E, under the agreements that we have, to fund
- 16 the setback project.
- 17 These represent other additional funding from our
- 18 development community. That would be across through here.
- 19 The -- we have a small portion of revenue coming
- 20 in from FEMA. And this number was adjusted since the last
- 21 time I talked to you, at the 26th meeting. This one has
- 22 increased a little bit. We expect a little bit more money
- 23 to come back from FEMA on the grants that we have from the
- 24 Olivehurst detention basin. The total revenues are here,
- 25 for our proposal. Our total expenses are shown here, to

- 1 come forward.
- 2 Now, as I move to the next slide -- this one
- 3 represents the information for trade, in just a little bit
- 4 different format.
- 5 --000--
- 6 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: On this one
- 7 here, where we have total expenses are shown here. And
- 8 this line here matches the previous slide. These are the
- 9 total revenues that you see on the previous slide.
- 10 But in between represents our cash flow as far as
- 11 expenditures that we perceive to have or anticipate
- 12 between now and when the Prop 1E money will come in.
- 13 And the purpose of this is to -- demonstrate to
- 14 the Rec Board is that we believe that we will be solvent;
- 15 money is there to cover our bills and what we're doing
- 16 during this inner period, where we are getting state
- 17 funds.
- 18 Now, I did not list every expense that we have,
- 19 like a very large cash flow sheet with all of the various
- 20 expenses. But I did mention, on the list here, certain
- 21 ones, of interest to the Rec Board.
- 22 Where he did have -- Bob Morrison was talking
- 23 about our existing acquisitions, whether or not we have
- 24 cash in our budget to do that. And Bob mentioned that was
- 25 in our cash flow.

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1 This line item here would represent, for the
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- 2 parcels that we have purchased, four segments -- for
- 3 Phases 1, 2, 3, and Yuba Phase 4 -- that we still have to
- 4 expense. We've planned for that. We put that in our cash
- 5 flow in the future. And those monies are coming in to our
- 6 program, through Prop 13 funds and reimbursements that we
- 7 have, or development funds, that we're getting during this
- 8 time period. So those are paid for, or will be paid for,
- 9 from that.
- 10 The -- on the line, acquisition for Segment 2,
- 11 that's what's represented here, by these numbers. There's
- 12 more money after this time period, that will come in, that
- 13 we anticipate being funded by Prop 1E.
- 14 This would be -- these numbers here, particularly
- 15 these and 11.5 -- make those payments -- would be
- 16 contingent upon getting the state funding at that time.
- 17 Quite a bit of this discussion. There is another
- 18 topic that will come up later on the agenda, on Item 4,
- 19 talk about revised TRLIA financing program. We'll be
- 20 addressing these issues too, that I'm talking about here.
- 21 Here, this is the Phase 2, 3, and 4 Yuba County --
- 22 or Yuba River projects. We still have a little bit of
- 23 money to spend. The work's done. The invoices are coming
- 24 in. We're paying off bills. And that's what that
- 25 represents. And then after this time period, essentially,

- 1 we'll pay off the work that we've done and billed.
- 2 And then here we have the Segment 1 construction
- 3 and 3 together. But this line right here represents the
- 4 design for Segment 1 and 3, which is funded today, to
- 5 complete Segments 1 and -- Segment 3 construction is
- 6 contingent upon getting some money to come into the
- 7 future, whether or not we accomplish this. But if this
- 8 plan comes to life, I believe that there would be
- 9 development funding coming in and also state funding.
- 10 We'll have achieved the net balance down here, being able
- 11 to pay all the bills.
- 12 We do have some Segment 2 design work that's
- 13 underway. And that's shown here, for the cash flow also.
- 14 So if we receive a combination of our state funds
- 15 that we already have, the development community funding
- 16 coming in, along with the early funding from the state, we
- 17 will achieve an overall cash balance, that will remain
- 18 positive, all the way up to Prop 1E funding.
- 19 And I believe that's the purpose of what I was to
- 20 demonstrate here today, for you.
- 21 There will be questions, I think, that will come
- 22 up about overall funding and how we do things with this
- 23 particular topic, for the state grant and that.
- I would really ask for not to repeat all this each
- 25 time, is that there's two more topics that we need to get

1 through, to actually get to the discussion on funding. I

- 2 would recommend that we hear from the next topic on the
- 3 state. And then we also have a revised TRLIA financial
- 4 plan, that all speak to the same issues on it, and that we
- 5 hear those two, and then have a discussion about funding
- 6 and then hear what your questions will be.
- 7 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: And I also think
- 8 it's worth pointing out that the last meeting, questions
- 9 were raised of whether our cash flow deliberately showed
- 10 the payment of the loan. We told you it was included in
- 11 the numbers. It was included in the numbers. But we
- 12 broke it out on this slide, along with the other break
- 13 outs, that Paul has provided, just to show that it is
- 14 indeed covered.
- The goal here was to break out each of the
- 16 individual topics that people had questions about last
- 17 time, to show that they are included. And everything else
- 18 is in that last category of the Three Rivers costs.
- 19 Clearly, if you have questions about the other Three
- 20 Rivers costs that are in there, we can go through that in
- 21 detail, if you would like.
- 22 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Paul, tell me again what
- 23 you said about going through the remainder of the items on
- 24 here. We have further discussion of the state funding as
- 25 an item on the agenda. And I would like to report back on

1 maintenance responsibilities, which is clearly not part of

- 2 this.
- 3 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: The next two
- 4 topics, funding potential for Prop 1E, and then the next
- 5 topic after that is the revised TRLIA financial plan.
- 6 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay.
- 7 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: Which is really
- 8 an adjunct to this particular topic. It carries it one
- 9 step further.
- 10 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay.
- 11 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Would you like us
- 12 to do that one now, just follow this?
- 13 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: In some ways, it seems
- 14 like, to me, it would make sense. But yeah, I see Lady
- 15 Bug shake her head.
- And are there questions to ask at this point?
- 17 PRESIDENT CARTER: I had some.
- 18 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Are there comments from
- 19 the public?
- 20 We're going to go ahead and let Ben ask his
- 21 questions. And then are there comments out here -- I
- 22 heard -- the item really was, in effect, have they
- 23 covered, in this financing plan, which is sort of halfway,
- 24 I guess, what might happen to them in terms of the
- 25 condemnation? So you have a question as to -- wait, let

1 me let Ben do his first and then we'll get to you, if

- 2 that's okay with you, Ms. Hofman. Okay.
- 3 Ben?
- 4 PRESIDENT CARTER: My first question relates to
- 5 the schedule, your Gantt chart, that you presented kind of
- 6 at the beginning of this, it showed degradation of the
- 7 existing levee occurring at 2009. A lot of -- while the
- 8 hydraulic analysis assumes that there's going to be
- 9 reductions in water surface elevation as a result of
- 10 setback levee, but that only occurs when the existing
- 11 levee is degraded.
- 12 If you are postponing that to 2009, that means
- 13 that the benefits of that to Yuba County, to this project,
- 14 to Sutter County, and they're supportive of this, don't
- 15 really occur until 2009 and 2010, which is -- it was a
- 16 year later than I was expecting it. So that's a concern
- 17 to me. I don't know if the schedule can be accelerated to
- 18 provide those benefits for the 2008/2009 flood season,
- 19 which begins November 2008.
- 20 But clearly, I just wanted to say that that's a
- 21 concern for me. And you don't have to answer. But I
- 22 would consider that or consider ways where you can perhaps
- 23 accelerate the schedule.
- 24 My other questions are maybe for Mr. Morrison.
- 25 You referred to -- under Segment 4 -- or Phase 4, Segments

1 and 3, permanent rights for a stability berm. What's

- 2 the stability berm? Are we talking about a levee, or are
- 3 we talking about another structure?
- 4 MR. MORRISON: Ric, maybe you can answer that
- 5 question.
- 6 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: A stability berm
- 7 is a earthen structure that abuts the levee to prevent
- 8 slumping when they have water flowing through the levee.
- 9 Gives it more stability. It's roughly 10 feet wide. If
- 10 you have driven down the Garden Highway in Sacramento in
- 11 Natomas, that's a stability berm.
- 12 PRESIDENT CARTER: So in your slide, Phase 4, it's
- 13 the one before that, I think. You talk about 25 parcels
- 14 affecting mainly temporary rights, permanent rights for a
- 15 stability berm only. So they are not permanent rights for
- 16 the setback levee?
- 17 MR. MORRISON: It is a strengthen in place
- 18 alternative. So it's in Segment 2 --
- 19 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: By definition,
- 20 Segment 3 is upstream of the setback levee, and Segment 1
- 21 is downstream of the setback levee.
- 22 PRESIDENT CARTER: This is a waterside stability
- 23 berm then?
- 24 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: It's a land side
- 25 stability berm.

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1 PRESIDENT CARTER: It's a land side. Okay.
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- 2 Very good. I stand corrected there.
- 3 Then the other question I have then would be for
- 4 Segment 2, where you are doing the setback levee, what is
- 5 the basis for the appraisals in terms of the financial
- 6 basis?
- 7 MR. MORRISON: We're saying that the financial
- 8 basis there is a market -- it's market driven. So the
- 9 appraiser is responsible for doing a market analysis and
- 10 finding comparable properties that have sold. So it's a
- 11 comparison-based analysis.
- 12 PRESIDENT CARTER: So would the appraiser be
- 13 comparing a value of a piece of property that is, say, on
- 14 Country Club and Messick Lake, which is -- which will
- 15 become inside the -- inside the levee, to one that is
- 16 Country Club, next to the Municipal Golf Course, on
- 17 Country Club Avenue, near the golf course.
- 18 MR. MORRISON: The analysis is done pre-project.
- 19 So it assumes that the project is not built. So it's what
- 20 it's worth today, prior to the project. And in that
- 21 specific instance, that comparison would not be
- 22 appropriate. It would be for light land uses as it is in
- 23 the general plan.
- 24 PRESIDENT CARTER: However, if the levee was fixed
- 25 in place, then these people would have the opportunity to

1 potentially develop their property; right? And so their

- 2 land use may change.
- 3 MR. MORRISON: That is outside -- that's outside
- 4 the realm of the appraisal itself. It is actually -- that
- 5 is a land use decision that is handled by the County Board
- 6 of Supervisors.
- 7 So it is, what is it zoned today with the
- 8 knowledge -- and it discusses the highest and best use of
- 9 that property. And it does a detailed analysis into, you
- 10 know, the general plan and the likelihood of a general
- 11 plan changing. But a lot of those things are outside the
- 12 control of the appraiser.
- 13 PRESIDENT CARTER: Well, you are taking the
- 14 control out of the landowner, his land use decision. You
- 15 are taking his control of his land use decision out of his
- 16 hands, if you move the levee. And you essentially
- 17 bifurcate their property or put their property inside of
- 18 the floodplain. You are eliminating their ability to make
- 19 choices as far as their land use. There is some value
- 20 with regard to that.
- 21 Also, these people who you are considering
- 22 including inside the levee, they are providing value to
- 23 Yuba County, Sutter County, the state of California. And
- 24 this is from the aspect of public safety in terms of
- 25 widening the flood plain.

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1 Is that value taken into consideration?
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- 2 MR. MORRISON: It is the fair market value at that
- 3 person's highest and best use. And I can't go and give
- 4 you a specific number on each one of these properties
- 5 right now, because the appraisal has not been completed
- 6 and that is a discussion between the property owner,
- 7 and it's part of the negotiation.
- 8 PRESIDENT CARTER: So does the fair market value
- 9 or does it not include the value provided to both counties
- 10 and the state for public safety?
- 11 MR. MORRISON: No.
- 12 PRESIDENT CARTER: Why not?
- 13 MR. MORRISON: It is a fair market -- what is --
- 14 PRESIDENT CARTER: That's not the question I
- 15 asked. Why not?
- 16 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: Is the
- 17 controlling factor the state law or something else?
- 18 MR. MORRISON: Controlling factor is state law.
- 19 And there are state laws that govern the appraisal
- 20 aspects. I'm not an appraiser. I'd be happy to have the
- 21 chief appraiser for that project come and answer that
- 22 question for you.
- 23 PRESIDENT CARTER: I just want to go on the record
- 24 saying that not that I want to increase the cost of this
- 25 project, but these people need to be fairly compensated

1 for the value they are providing to this project, to the

- 2 people of Yuba County, to the people of Sutter County, and
- 3 to the people of state of California.
- 4 It is not -- and there is value there. That's why
- 5 this project is being done. Clearly, there's value there,
- 6 and it's not ag land value. It's probably more than the
- 7 development value, because it's systemwide benefits. So I
- 8 urge you to take that into consideration.
- 9 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Ms. Hofman?
- 10 MS. HOFMAN: I have a question for the Reclamation
- 11 Board. We have a project. We are making a ring levee for
- 12 development in the worst area possible of the Yuba County.
- 13 We're taking the people above that. When they had in mind
- 14 dodging the four-way, doing everything they are doing,
- 15 without doing a full environmental impact report on the
- 16 entire system. They knew what they were doing. And now
- 17 the land owners are going to pay the piper.
- 18 And what I'm saying is, if I understand
- 19 condemnation correctly, you have the right for the benefit
- 20 of the future and this project was envisioned for
- 21 hundred-year protection, many years ago. And I wonder, if
- 22 case law allows you to ignore it.
- 23 The other thing I'm asking, since you haven't done
- 24 the soil analysis, what if you go out there and you
- 25 condemn somebody's property. You have a real problem.

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1 What I'm saying is, why don't we at least do something
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- 2 completely. We've had TRLIA admit they need a 408.
- 3 Why does the Reclamation Board allow them to
- 4 ignore the federal guidelines for environmental
- 5 protection? We don't know anything about hydrology.
- 6 We're landowners. We ask the question. They are going to
- 7 start building in four months. And they can't even tell
- 8 me how much water is going to come in from the Yuba River.
- 9 How can -- what are you going to do? Is the dirt
- 10 no good in the old levee? Is it scrap? Where are you
- 11 going to put it? When I ask TRLIA that, I get no answer.
- 12 They are going to take good land, dig it up to build a
- 13 levee so they avoid a 408, so they have the federal
- 14 government in their clutches.
- 15 What I'm saying is, did TRLIA tell the Reclamation
- 16 Board that the old levee has no valuable dirt in it? Or
- 17 are they going to sell that dirt to developers?
- 18 I'm just a citizen. I want answers. I'm begging
- 19 the Reclamation Board to take a firm stand and ask that
- 20 this project be complete, so we get some hard answers.
- 21 Your chairman is correct. This whole area, they
- 22 put it in there. They took the best land in Yuba County,
- 23 made it development land, by ignoring an environmental
- 24 process, that they skipped, in order to build the ring
- 25 levee for the developers. I'm not against development.

1 But I'm against finessing a project to their benefit, at

- 2 the expense of the public.
- 3 Now. If TRLIA can prove that there's no dirt of
- 4 value in that levee, that's one thing. But why are we
- 5 digging up more land when we've got a levee that can --
- 6 that should be able to be used. Why aren't we having the
- 7 408? Why are we doing a project when we don't know if we
- 8 can have a permit? What happens if we have a flood with
- 9 that dirt that's going to be inside of the river, going
- 10 down to the rest of the river system?
- 11 It's supposed to be, they said, a 25- to 35-year
- 12 levee. We're building a 200-year levee on the other side.
- 13 Ladies and gentlemen, we need a complete project.
- 14 I hear the land acquisition person telling us that it's
- 15 what it is today. If you take the records of Yuba County,
- 16 they are taking some of the best land that's in some of
- 17 the worst areas, right now, today, and they are putting
- 18 that same land, without a levee, in, for development, of
- 19 thousands of people. And we're going to tell the farmers
- 20 out there and the people that own the land, you are not
- 21 entitled to the same benefit?
- What I want to know is, why we don't have the 408
- 23 environmental work done? And why we're skating around it
- 24 and going out and taking the levee out after we built the
- 25 other one.

- 2 for an answer. You don't get an answer. So I'm coming to
- 3 the Reclamation Board, and I'm asking for the answer.
- 4 We had the money and everything for a setback
- 5 levee. We had a retention thing. And then we go ask for
- 6 the 408. And then it's an emergency thing, and we don't
- 7 do the environmental work. It's going to be the same
- 8 thing with this.
- 9 Thank you.
- 10 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: With permission, I
- 11 think it's important to clarify for members of the public
- 12 that may not be familiar with 408, it's not an
- 13 environmental statute. Section 408 of the Rivers and
- 14 Harbors Act, it's actually a section of code that you says
- 15 that you can't alter a levee without permission of the
- 16 federal government. And in this case, we are going to be
- 17 altering that existing levee, and that's what the 408 rule
- 18 is.
- 19 So I just think it's important for the record to
- 20 say, we're not skirting any environmental laws. We do
- 21 have a phased approach on 408. This is, in essence, the
- 22 same phased approach that was used on the Bear River
- 23 levee. That was acceptable to the State and the Army
- 24 Corps of Engineers.
- 25 And I will leave it to Paul or Ric to comment on

1 whether the existing levee has adequate materials for

- 2 construction of the setback.
- 3 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: The Board will
- 4 recall, on the Bear River, we proposed building one-third
- 5 of the foundation of the levee, before we began
- 6 degradation of the existing Bear River levee. That was a
- 7 long process. We reached an agreement on how to do that
- 8 and what milestones can be met before we can achieve that.
- 9 We required a very aggressive construction program and
- 10 ultimately we met that objective.
- 11 The levee was 1.8 miles long. This levee is six
- 12 miles long. In addition, this is the Feather River levee.
- 13 One of the big problems with it, it's a sand pot; it is a
- 14 very sandy levee. That material does not meet
- 15 specifications, unlike the Bear River levee where much of
- 16 the levee met current soil specification requirements.
- 17 And so since the levee is 6 miles long, we're very
- 18 concerned about our ability to construct it in one year.
- 19 We want to make sure that before we begin degradation, and
- 20 because that existing levee is not -- probably 70 to
- 21 80 percent of it meets soil specification requirements,
- 22 we're not pursuing simultaneous degradation as we did with
- 23 the Bear.
- 24 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. I'm going to stay
- off my soap box for now.

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1 You know, I can't. Unfortunately, we have a
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- 2 system in the Central Valley that, after we spend
- 3 \$35 million trying to develop a systemwide program -- and
- 4 fundamentally we're not able to do that, and mostly
- 5 because we simply couldn't find a way to meet the needs of
- 6 everybody who had needs that they wanted met, in modifying
- 7 the system. So we did try to do it on a systemwide
- 8 approach. And unfortunately, what's happening in the
- 9 meantime is, houses have already been built, houses are
- 10 being built, and we have come to better understand how bad
- 11 these levees are.
- 12 In my view, while I would not argue that this is
- 13 not, in effect -- not this project, but the approach to
- 14 this system is the segmented approach. We are fixing
- 15 places where the flood front is greatest. That's the case
- 16 here, because I believe, and you correct me if I'm wrong,
- 17 but the Feather River levee broke in the area of the
- 18 setback, would that not get the people in Linda and
- 19 Olivehurst wet as well? Or is that incorrect?
- 20 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: It's incorrect.
- 21 It would result in approximately the same floodplain --
- 22 actually, exactly the same floodplain that occurred in
- 23 1997, which flooded the southern portions of Olivehurst,
- 24 but it didn't flood Linda.
- MR. ARCHER: Backed up to the airport.

1 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: The improvement here is

- 2 primarily focused on making sure that there is adequate
- 3 protection for the Plumas Lakes.
- 4 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: And the southern
- 5 portion of Olivehurst. The way that it benefits the
- 6 residents of Yuba -- of Linda is through the stage
- 7 reductions on the Yuba River levee.
- 8 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: I understand. I
- 9 understand.
- 10 So I guess there was a real attempt made to do
- 11 this from a systemwide approach. And fundamentally, I
- 12 don't know, politics, different values, made it impossible
- 13 to do. And we're now, in my opinion, reduced to having to
- 14 address, in effect, the worst cases first and those
- 15 communities who will get out will figure out a way to get
- 16 their property done and maybe can jump on others. And
- 17 it's not necessarily the best way to do business and
- 18 that's why the legislature is arguing a lot about it.
- 19 But fundamentally, to try and provide protection
- 20 for people who are already living in harm's way, it's
- 21 going to impact at this point.
- 22 Keep the meeting moving then.
- 23 Yeah?
- 24 SUPERVISING ENGINEER FUA: This is actually in
- 25 relation to the section 408. Wouldn't you need a federal

1 NEPA compliance if you degrade a federal levee? River

- 2 Islands, Corps of Engineers require an EIS.
- 3 TRLIA PROGRAM MANAGER REINHARDT: For the Bear
- 4 River levee, the NEPA compliance was completed under our
- 5 404 permit. And we talked with our Corps staff, and the
- 6 initial reaction was that they would do the same with
- 7 this, that the NEPA compliance of the 408 -- whatever
- 8 compliance is required for the 404.
- 9 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. I would like to
- 10 go to the TRLIA financing plan and then come back to talk
- 11 about where DWR money is. That's a change a little bit in
- 12 the agenda, but we will take your comments. It just fits
- 13 better with the way this was meant. Okay?
- 14 And we are now moving down to Item 3B4, which is
- 15 Revised TRLIA Financing Plan. All right?
- 16 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was
- 17 presented as follows.)
- 18 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Thank you, Butch.
- 19 This is a very brief PowerPoint presentation. It's more
- 20 oriented towards summarizing concepts, contained in the
- 21 cash flow that Paul showed in the last PowerPoint. It's
- 22 only four slides other than the introductory slide.
- --000--
- 24 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: So in summary, the
- 25 Finance Plan to date is the first bullet on this slide.

1 Phases 1, 2, 3, and Yuba Phase 4, and the Feather Segments

- 2 1 and 3 design has been funded from a combination of the
- 3 FEMA grant, which we received. And now we're waiting to
- 4 determine the exact dollar amount of the receipt of money
- 5 and we're estimating, I think, it's \$6.5 million
- 6 currently.
- 7 State Proposition 13 funding, which we received
- 8 about \$40 million thus far, with contracts in excess of
- 9 50 million, will probably hit 70 million approximately, or
- 10 60 million, somewhere that range, when we get the last of
- 11 the appropriations; and development funding, which is
- 12 currently about \$68 million.
- Phase 4 Feather, Segment 1 and 3 construction and
- 14 Segment 2 construction, we believe, should be funded in
- 15 parallel to what has happened to date. This is the
- 16 combination of state funding, Proposition 1E and 84 and
- 17 the local share of significant portions of which will come
- 18 from the development community.
- 19 We've -- Three Rivers is not in the local
- 20 government business. We're not in the land use business.
- 21 But we've heard the message from Yuba County, which is a
- 22 member of our joint powers authority. Yuba County
- 23 believes that this project should be like others in the
- 24 state, and that is, they should have a local share and
- 25 they should have a state share.

1 And that's one of the advantages of state funding

- 2 in this last phase, is to basically put residents of Yuba
- 3 County on par with residents of other counties that
- 4 receive the state funding.
- 5 It's also important to remember that development
- 6 funding really just means higher home prices and higher
- 7 fees in the long run, made by residents who buy those
- 8 houses. And we felt that this community should be on par
- 9 with communities in Natomas and Lathrop and West
- 10 Sacramento and Stockton, where state funding helps offset
- 11 that allocation.
- 12 Finally, it's important to note that the setback
- 13 levee provides tremendous regional benefits, benefits to
- 14 people outside of the area, the benefits to Sutter County,
- 15 which isn't paying anything, and Yuba city, which isn't
- 16 paying anything, and Marysville which isn't paying
- 17 anything. And so traditionally, the state has
- 18 participated in that kind of funding.
- 19 --000--
- 20 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: The key elements
- 21 of our request DWR, which are pending, is 70 percent state
- 22 share and 30 percent local share. The costs associated
- 23 with the -- what would have been the strengthen in place
- 24 work. Now we know, the actual costs for strengthen in
- 25 place for Segments 1 and 3. We're doing that work.

- 1 Segment 2 is the estimate. It's what the state would
- 2 traditionally participate in, at the traditional state 70,
- 3 local 30 percent cost share.
- 4 We've also requested that DWR allocate a hundred
- 5 percent state share for the setback levee, due to those
- 6 regional benefits. So to be clear, that's a hundred
- 7 percent of the incremental costs. It's not a hundred
- 8 percent of the cost of that levee. It's just the
- 9 incremental cost beyond what it would have cost had we
- 10 done the strengthen in place.
- 11 We have provided estimates of those dollars to
- 12 DWR, although our plan is based on percentages. And
- 13 that's traditionally how some of these contracts have been
- 14 handled. We go back, we can do changes, we can get the
- 15 numbers updated. There would be a cap. We understand
- 16 that a cap is necessary, from the state's perspective, to
- 17 make sure that all 1E funding is eaten up on projects like
- 18 this.
- 19 And our request also is to use timely copayment of
- 20 invoices. Proposition 13 had a clumsy reimbursement
- 21 mechanism that required us to expend all funds before we
- 22 could be reimbursed. That's a tremendous cash flow burden
- 23 on us.
- We are aware of other projects. Since AB 140 and
- 25 142, where DWR has basically taken a payment program. An

1 example is the Grand Andrews repairs that are going on,

- 2 down in the Delta, and we have requested sort of the same
- 3 sort of payment method that's here.
- --000--
- 5 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Key actions that
- 6 we understand that are required before Proposition 1E
- 7 funds are committed to Three Rivers. Clearly, DWR needs
- 8 to select our project. And the last subcommittee meeting,
- 9 Rod Mayer reported that the -- that the bond expenditure
- 10 plan was out, and DWR was working on some application
- 11 packets, and we are awaiting that. And George may know
- 12 more about when they are coming, but we'll look toward to
- 13 them coming when they come. We will promptly apply, with
- 14 all of our materials together, all ready.
- 15 Once we apply and DWR selects the project, we have
- 16 great certainty that the money will come, once the
- 17 legislature appropriates it.
- 18 And once the legislature appropriates it, there
- 19 will be an agreement that is executed. We will look for
- 20 either a single agreement for all of the funds or a
- 21 two-phase agreement. You will notice in cash flows, we
- 22 show \$30 million in July, August, and, I believe,
- 23 September. There could be an initial contract for that or
- 24 a later phase contract or there could be a contact for the
- 25 entire request.

1 And the agreement, that agreement in place,

- 2 triggers the availability of additional local share money
- 3 to provide the local share for the 70/30 split.
- 4 --000--
- 5 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: I think it's
- 6 important to be real up front with the consequences of a
- 7 delay in the state agreement. And we've talked about
- 8 this. The last time, at the subcommittee meeting, we had
- 9 the disclosure that due to delays, we will not be seeing
- 10 money in May. We would see money earliest in July. We
- 11 came back with a cash flow today that showed the
- 12 consequences of that.
- 13 Along the same lines, these with the consequences
- 14 of the delay in the state agreement, beyond the new
- 15 timeframes we're talking about. Delaying the state
- 16 agreement could delay completion of the Feather River
- 17 improvements until 2009. Our schedule still gets it done
- 18 in 2008, but assumes that we have agreements in place, to
- 19 start getting money, in October of this year.
- 20 Another consequence could be that work on Segment
- 21 2 might stop after June of '07, until the state funding
- 22 arised -- arose later. So that's another potential
- 23 consequence.
- 24 It also could force a decision for Three Rivers,
- of whether it would be to prioritize funding of Segment 2

1 land acquisition or Segment 3 levee improvements. It's a

- 2 decision we hope not to have to make. I know that,
- 3 personally, my selection would be to keep funding land
- 4 acquisition, because the weakest link is Segment 2. And I
- 5 want to make sure that doesn't get delayed. But that is a
- 6 decision Three Rivers could be faced with, if there's a
- 7 delay to the state agreement.
- 8 So these are the worst case scenarios, if you
- 9 will. We've thought about them. We believe with the
- 10 information we are hearing from DWR, that these won't come
- 11 to pass, but we're really not hiding anything. We want to
- 12 put right up on the screen what the potential consequences
- 13 are.
- 14 That's the summary of the latest, on the financing
- 15 plan. That's really more overview of the numbers than you
- 16 previously saw from Paul.
- 17 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: I have some questions.
- 18 When the Reclamation Board amended the permit to
- 19 eliminate the building permits, at that time, we had a
- 20 commitment from TRLIA to raise how much money?
- 21 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: We had the
- 22 commitment to raise -- at that point it was maximum of
- 23 140 -- \$135 million.
- 24 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay.
- 25 Now --

1 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: It was technically

- 2 a \$90 million commitment with a \$45 million contingency.
- 3 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. All right. Your
- 4 request to the state for funding would reduce
- 5 significantly the funds provided by TRLIA for this
- 6 project. And I'm not here to say whether that's good or
- 7 bad. But I want to know is, suppose the state doesn't
- 8 give you as much money as you have shown that you would
- 9 like to get.
- 10 Where are we?
- 11 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: The program that
- 12 we came before the Reclamation Board with, back in April
- 13 or May in last year, as you will recall, was the
- 14 strengthen in place program. And all of our commitments
- 15 for local funding were tied to that program. Only one of
- 16 the more expensive programs, the setback levee, required
- 17 us, as we shared last time at the subcommittee meeting to
- 18 come back to the table with more funding sources and
- 19 identify a local source.
- 20 So your question is, if the state doesn't come up
- 21 with a adequate funding to get the setback levee done, do
- 22 we have adequate funding to get it done ourselves?
- 23 And the answer is maybe. And I want to be -- I
- 24 don't want to hide the ball on that. We would have to sit
- 25 down, as Three Rivers, and make some decisions. Do we

1 continue to pursue the setback levee and additional local

- 2 funding sources to do it? Do we make a decision to go
- 3 back to the strengthen in place, a lower cost solution and
- 4 identify the necessary local cost shares to do that?
- 5 There would be decisions that would have to be made.
- One of the advantages of the program we're on, is
- 7 we're continuing to pursue Segment 1 and 3 strengthen in
- 8 place. We're continuing to strengthen those. They need
- 9 to be strengthened no matter what.
- 10 Before we do any significant construction on
- 11 Segment 2, you will have from DWR an award or a failure
- 12 award on our request. And that's when, if you will, we
- 13 have to make our decisions.
- 14 We continue to meet all of our commitments to the
- 15 Reclamation Board in our agreement. We're moving ahead
- 16 with the 2008 completion date. Developers continue to
- 17 provide insurance through 2010. Not a single home is
- 18 being built without that home paying a dollar amount right
- 19 now, consistent with that agreement.
- 20 So we're continuing to work it. And so if that
- 21 contingency comes up, Butch, we'll be back at the table,
- 22 learning how to deal with it.
- 23 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: A couple of
- 24 comments I would like to make, all the discussions with
- 25 the state indicate that the project will move forward.

1 The question would be the timing and the amount that we

- 2 have. And those will get worked through.
- 3 The numbers could be different when we finally
- 4 negotiate. At that time, Scott was saying, we will then
- 5 work through that with you, in that discussion, as to
- 6 where we are, when we go through those discussions.
- 7 I know, personally, that as we've looked at that
- 8 TRLIA, the county, and the members here in the community,
- 9 we are looking at other alternatives -- to plan B options,
- 10 if those cases came. I'm not prepared to go through those
- 11 with you, here, but we are looking at other options at how
- 12 to proceed. We take them very seriously, that we do
- 13 proceed with the goals.
- 14 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Given the situation,
- 15 again, in -- there's an agreement where the county and, I
- 16 guess, the landowners agree that they stop building, in
- 17 the event that a project can't move forward.
- 18 Just for my information, I would like to know,
- 19 from your perspective, you have a cash flow laid out here
- 20 that, you know, it's not the kind of cash flow one would
- 21 like to have on a project because you would like to have
- 22 more money. And because, you know, things are going to
- 23 come up. It appears to me, at least the work at this
- 24 point in time, up until you need the money from DWR, the
- 25 first infusion of money, at -- let's say that doesn't

1 happen this year. Okay? So it's on the table of what

- 2 happens next year.
- 3 Do you think that would -- if the Board said, and
- 4 we think that constitutes default? And I guess that's the
- 5 right word. At that point would that constitute default?
- 6 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Well, default is
- 7 defined in the agreement. Actually, it's defined in the
- 8 agreement because you made us define it in the agreement.
- 9 You added in a provision that said, "default includes" --
- 10 when you get to the point that you know you don't have
- 11 enough money to get the program done.
- 12 So I'm not going to interpret your -- the
- 13 agreement for you. Nancy is here, and she'll do that if
- 14 and when the day comes. But I think you have protected
- 15 your interests, those interests being protecting the
- 16 population, pretty well.
- 17 In addition to your ability to call the default,
- 18 Yuba County retained the ability to stop issuing building
- 19 permits under any criteria that's developed, consistent
- 20 with vested property rights and state law and all those
- 21 kinds of things.
- 22 So Yuba County has that ability as well. I'm not
- 23 going to guess for you what my board would do. You are
- 24 the executive director long enough to know that that would
- 25 cause you trouble.

1 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: That will get you fired

- 2 quickly.
- 3 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: That's right.
- 4 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: And I won't put
- 5 YOU on the spot other than to say, if any Board members
- 6 want to comment on this, they are welcome to. But I think
- 7 that pretty much answered your question.
- 8 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Yeah. I'm exploring in,
- 9 this, because this is really about why we're here.
- 10 And you know, the Board's concern is, the Board
- 11 stepped out and wanted to look at, in effect, in lifting
- 12 the building permit requirements because that clearly was
- 13 the way to get money and move forward with the project.
- 14 And now the Board, I think, is in a position
- 15 where, not now, not yet, but at some point, we might have
- 16 to look at the basic question of, you know, can the Board
- 17 still support allowing issuance of building permits when
- 18 there are a few uncertainties here, about whether there's
- 19 funding, and maybe we can't deal with those until we get
- 20 there. But I get worried a little bit about the
- 21 possibility for this.
- 22 Ric's left, but could the Feather River be
- 23 certified in place?
- 24 If you didn't do the work on the levee, could it
- 25 be certified?

1 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: Well, Ric would

- 2 be the best to respond. But if you look at the rationale
- 3 as a viable alternative in the CEQA analysis, then we are
- 4 proposing to go forward with it. If you wanted to put
- 5 aside all the regional benefits and the benefits of doing
- 6 the project, and go and use levee maintenance sand, or
- 7 pretty much sand, our goal, because of cash restrictions
- 8 at the time, was to try to do that and move forward. So
- 9 we accomplish our task and complete the project.
- 10 We, the vote that came with Prop 1E that came in
- 11 November, took the opportunity, presented this case, to
- 12 your Board. The Board adopted that. For regional
- 13 benefits that we have, it would be much better to build a
- 14 new levee and move forward and not try to rehab an old
- 15 levee that was bad.
- I think on face value, Butch, yes, we had gotten
- 17 certified and move to do that. I think that there's many
- 18 levees across the state that were certified before, under
- 19 that status. We would slurry wall everything. Hope that
- 20 we got the sand later down there, captured; inner seepage
- 21 problems would continue, and we just kind of reinvent the
- 22 wheel. Potentially, we go. And again, it's 30 days, it
- 23 stops water. But have you ever really addressed the
- 24 issue? And the new levee allows us to go through that.
- 25 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: I agree. And I

- 1 appreciate that.
- 2 I want to go ahead. Are there other questions
- 3 from Board members or staff?
- 4 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Butch, can I just
- 5 address one point you made as well?
- 6 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Sure.
- 7 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: I just want to the
- 8 speak to the issue of lifting permits. There's a lot of
- 9 people here who have come to all of our meetings. So I
- 10 just think it's important that we put a record on it
- 11 [sic].
- 12 The Reclamation Board imposed a limitation of 800
- 13 building permits. Let me back up. Imposed -- Reclamation
- 14 Board and Three Rivers agreed to a limitation, with the
- 15 cooperation of the developers and the County, of a
- 16 limitation for 2005 of 800 building permits and 700 in
- 17 2006. And that was to get us through Phases 1 and 3.
- 18 Interestingly, despite lifting building permit
- 19 limitation, we issued 800 in 2005 and less than 700 in
- 20 2006. So while, yes, you agree to lift it, less houses
- 21 were built that could have been built before the
- 22 limitations lifted; okay?
- 23 Even to date, where we have -- we are now three
- 24 months into 2007, under Phase 4, we have only issued
- 25 about -- Yuba County has only issued something like ten

- 1 over the 700 for last year.
- 2 So while building permit limitation was
- 3 technically lifted, we didn't get the original limitation.
- 4 That was only for Phases 1, 2 and 3. Now we're in Phase
- 5 4. And every house is still paying a fee towards the
- 6 levees. I just think it's an important clarification.
- 7 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: I appreciate that. I'm
- 8 thinking what I've got to do in the future. That's all.
- 9 Other comments?
- 10 Sure.
- 11 MR. NIESCHULZ: Dale Nieschulz, Nieschulz Ranch.
- 12 A question on your incremental value. You said
- 13 that you're charging the state a hundred percent based on
- 14 incremental value that is going to be gained by Yuba City
- 15 and Marysville and other areas.
- 16 Could you explain that again?
- 17 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: It's actually
- 18 increment cost, not incremental value. I'm going to make
- 19 up numbers, just to make the math easier, because I'm a
- 20 lawyer, not an engineer.
- 21 The cost estimate, from the engineers, to
- 22 strengthen the whole levee was a hundred million. The cost
- 23 estimate to strengthen Segments 1 and 3 and the setback in
- 24 Segment 2 was 200 million. Therefore, the incremental
- 25 cost was 100 million, and that's what we requested of the

- 1 state.
- 2 So there's no incremental benefit or incremental
- 3 value. It's just the hard cost of doing the work.
- 4 COMMISSIONER DALE: What precedent is this set on?
- 5 Is that a state precedent this is set on?
- 6 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Well, it actually
- 7 is based on existing precedent. If you look at the work
- 8 that was done on the Bear River, under Proposition 13,
- 9 Fish and Game had various funds that they provided, and
- 10 DWR had various funds that they provided. And the funds
- 11 of DWR and Fish and Game, provided for the basic work, was
- done at a 70/30 cost split, just like what we are
- 13 proposing for the basic work here.
- 14 And then Fish and Game provided a hundred percent
- 15 for enhancement, for environmental enhancement and
- 16 restorations, above that baseline. And here, we have
- 17 said, that setback levee provides environmental
- 18 enhancement and provides flood protection enhancement for
- 19 others, outside of us. And so it's based on that same
- 20 analysis, that was approved by the voters in Proposition
- 21 13.
- 22 MR. NIESCHULZ: Okay. What I understand, then, is
- 23 that the State makes up for that difference, that others
- 24 are to benefit from; is that correct?
- 25 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: If that's what the

1 state did in Proposition 13 on the Bear River, we propose

- 2 to do so, here, on the Feather.
- 3 MR. NIESCHULZ: So I guess where I'm going with
- 4 this, then, is that if we're getting appraised values
- 5 based on land that is being taken away from us, and to be
- 6 placed outside of the area and try to find something that
- 7 is equivalent to it, you're getting essentially a high
- 8 amount for equivalent value of ground.
- 9 Are benefits paid back to you? You are getting a
- 10 hundred percent by the state. It seems to me, the
- 11 landowners are getting shorted on this by not also getting
- 12 an increase of value that they are providing. Based on
- 13 you they are getting a hundred percent from the
- 14 government, it should be passed on to the landowners that
- 15 are being displaced.
- Does that not seem reasonable to you?
- 17 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: The hundred
- 18 percent that we get from the state is based on the values
- 19 under state law for appraisal of property. So the way you
- 20 said it makes it sound like we are somehow pocketing and
- 21 not passing it all on. We're operating under state law.
- 22 You know, we appraise under state law.
- I am very sensitive to the point that you raise
- 24 here and that President Carter raised about the true value
- 25 of land. I am sensitive to it.

1 But we as a local agency are bound to operate by

- 2 state law, and the Reclamation Board certainly has a voice
- 3 to speak to the Legislature on this issue, and individuals
- 4 as well. There has been some eminent domain reform that
- 5 has occurred and more may occur.
- At the moment, we are bound by state law, and I,
- 7 as counsel for Three Rivers, am not the one to endorse
- 8 policy decisions one way or the other. It is just state
- 9 law.
- 10 MR. NIESCHULZ: Okay. It's a 70/30 split.
- 11 Otherwise, on this portion of the incremental value
- 12 increase, it's a hundred percent.
- So you see where I'm coming from, basically.
- 14 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: I do understand
- 15 your point.
- 16 MR. NIESCHULZ: Okay. And that's where I am
- 17 disagreeing with the appraisal values. When you come back
- 18 and you say we'll not be pretending -- not giving an
- 19 incremental value more, and you are giving the equivalent
- 20 to the ground, outside. That's where I'm coming from.
- 21 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: Just one point
- of clarification, is and they said yes to the 70/30 split.
- 23 We proposed the 70/30 split. That's what we've had before
- 24 on our work with the state. And there are different
- 25 splits that could occur, under Prop 1E. So it could be

- 1 some other proportion.
- 2 MR. NIESCHULZ: Okay. Very good.
- 3 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Gentlemen? Other
- 4 comments?
- 5 MR. FOSTER: My name is Greg Foster. And I would
- 6 like to address some of the same issues that Mr. Nieschulz
- 7 just went over, and some of the -- some that President
- 8 Carter mentioned earlier, if this is the appropriate time.
- 9 I'm one of the landowners affected. I live from
- 10 Star Bend -- my ranch actually runs from Star Bend up to
- 11 Country Club there.
- 12 And I wanted to address this assessment or this
- 13 estimate of the land value. All of these other issues
- 14 that come in, other than comparable sales in the area, to
- 15 me, they are just -- there's a lot of other issues to look
- 16 at, here.
- 17 First of all, on my part, from a selfish
- 18 viewpoint, I'm not interested in selling my land. If this
- 19 is against my will, I don't -- I'm not interested in
- 20 selling it. And yet you folks are going to take it one
- 21 way or the other. We'll have more than 260 acres, which
- 22 is two-thirds of our ranch put into the river bottoms
- 23 here. And what that does is it takes an economic unit,
- 24 that we built up over the last 30 years, and virtually
- 25 makes an untenable situation from a farming viewpoint.

1 It -- there are economies -- there are levels of

- 2 economy here -- scales of economy that you can't justify
- 3 the equipment. You couldn't justify a walnut huller and
- 4 dryer if you don't have any walnuts to hull and dry. You
- 5 can't justify an \$80,000 shaker if you don't have enough
- 6 acreage to use it on.
- 7 So it destroys an economic package, which I'm not
- 8 sure you folks could consider in your flat orchard land
- 9 appraisal.
- 10 I mean, I am a big fan of flood protection. I was
- 11 flooded in '86 and again in '97. I had 16 feet of water
- 12 in my house. And I'm a big fan of flood protection. But
- 13 I don't understand why we're -- why we spent \$20 million
- 14 on the existing levee already, and now we're coming up
- 15 with plan B, I mean, since '97, with the slurry wall and
- 16 all other improvements.
- 17 In addition to the economics of it, there are some
- 18 aesthetics involved. I mean, we've been out there -- we
- 19 live on the ranch. We're going to have a levee 50 yards
- 20 from the back of our house, which is just, despite what
- 21 people say, is a freeway. It's an access for all of the
- 22 riffraff in the world that wants to drive down the levee,
- 23 throw out their drug paraphernalia, run over an irrigation
- 24 pipe, tear up the orchard in the wintertime, dump their
- 25 used refrigerators, washers, and dryers, etc., out on our

- 1 property, along with theft issues.
- 2 In addition, when the property a half mile to the
- 3 east of us there is selling for huge amounts of money, and
- 4 the general plan, coming up for amendment and will be
- 5 done, I would suspect, in the next two years -- and I
- 6 would suspect that there are going to be several changes
- 7 in it, particularly addressing the area to the west of
- 8 Feather River Boulevard, that are not included in the
- 9 specific plan right now.
- 10 This project is, again, on a selfish level. This
- 11 project is precluding us and these other landowners, that
- 12 are present here, from ever realizing the full potential
- 13 of that ground. And the full potential of it is not what
- 14 prunes and walnut orchards is worth today. I disagree
- 15 with you on that.
- 16 For instance, I do know of acreage just a half a
- 17 mile to the east that has been sold for well above \$50,000
- 18 an acre. So it seems rather ludicrous to offer us a ag
- 19 land price for that property.
- 20 So that's pretty much what I have to say. I
- 21 just -- I know you folks. This may not be the appropriate
- 22 time or place or -- but I know this, that you folks have
- 23 something to say about that in your offers and so does the
- 24 board of supervisors.
- Thank you.

1 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: I'm sensitive to

- 2 the land valuation. But I don't think I even have
- 3 anything to add.
- 4 I do want to just note, the statement was correct.
- 5 There has been millions of dollars put into Feather River
- 6 levee, on the section that we're looking to replace. And
- 7 that's, frankly, one of the reasons we're looking at a
- 8 setback. There has been a seepage berm, there's a slurry
- 9 wall, and there's monitoring wells, and it's still having
- 10 problems. And that's the reason we're looking to replace
- 11 it.
- 12 I'm also wondering if Bob wants to speak to the
- 13 issues raised by the commentator, about business
- 14 operations and the way land valuations affect business
- 15 operations, and whether that is included in the
- 16 appraisals.
- 17 MR. MORRISON: There are two types of appraisals.
- 18 There's the land itself, and then there's the actual
- 19 business operations. So if we hinder the business
- 20 operations, that business and/or agricultural entity would
- 21 need to show, through their tax returns and their
- 22 operations, how there is an additional value. And we can
- 23 work with them to get to that number. And so, that is an
- 24 entitlement, through the state laws. They are entitled to
- 25 that.

1 And again, I just wanted to reiterate what Scott

- 2 said. We are following all the state laws related to the
- 3 acquisition of property for a public project.
- 4 SECRETARY DOHERTY: And nothing about family
- 5 values or history that's there or anything that's there.
- 6 Just have to follow the law.
- 7 MR. MORRISON: And there is a negotiation period.
- 8 And unfortunately, yes, we have to follow the law.
- 9 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Would it be
- 10 appropriate to take a five-minute break?
- 11 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Yeah. Okay. Five
- 12 minutes.
- 13 (Thereupon a break was taken in
- 14 proceedings.)
- 15 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: We took a break. We are
- 16 at the point where I would now like Mr. Qualley, who has a
- 17 commitment here, that we're keeping him from, to talk to
- 18 us about where the state and DWR are in terms of funding
- 19 or moving forward with the plans that might enable state
- 20 funding.
- 21 MR. QUALLEY: Well, in crafting both propositions
- 22 1E and 84, it was recognized that there was both urgent
- 23 need, the need to -- the work needed to be moving that
- 24 quickly; and also a need to, you know, take a step back
- 25 and strategically plan for additional works, you know,

1 gathering the information needed and then establishing

- 2 processes to make sure that, over the course of the bond,
- 3 that the fund would be spent in a strategic way.
- 4 So in the implementation of the bonds, the
- 5 Department has been working with a variety of stakeholders
- 6 to implement a two-pronged process, one where we could get
- 7 going on the work that was urgently needed and would
- 8 pretty clearly fit within the reasonably strategic plan
- 9 that would come out of the process; and at the same time
- 10 initiating a number of the planning processes, the levee
- 11 evaluations, updating hydraulic models, all the things
- 12 that need to be done, to move into the strategic phase,
- 13 but it will take us two or three years to do that.
- 14 Nobody -- not the voters, not the legislature, not
- 15 the governor's office -- two or three years to do
- 16 anything. So the early implementation projects is part of
- 17 the funding category, called state federal flood control
- 18 system modifications, and this is basically the \$3 billion
- 19 category in the model.
- 20 So the early implementation projects, there was
- 21 \$200 million set aside in the fiscal year 2007/2008
- 22 budget, to solicit the applications for these types of
- 23 projects, that are ready to move forward.
- In the governor's Bond Expenditure Plan, which is
- 25 a requirement of Proposition 1E, there was a number of

1 criteria. Project selection criteria, were laid out in

- 2 the Bond Expenditure Plan to guide the Department of Water
- 3 Resources in selecting early implementation projects.
- 4 So we have prepared, or almost completed
- 5 preparing, an application packet to solicit four of these
- 6 types of projects for the \$200 million that's in the
- 7 budget.
- 8 Our current plan is on Monday, March 26th, to post
- 9 the application package. We're doing some internal
- 10 review. There's a couple of things that we needed to
- 11 tighten up in the packet, to make sure it's as clear as it
- 12 can be. And we've got some internal modification
- 13 requirements that we have to do within the administration.
- 14 So my current best estimate, I am pretty confident
- that we'll be posting it on our FloodSafe Website on
- 16 March 26th.
- 17 We're going to be encouraging applicants to submit
- 18 questions, verifying questions, questions they have about
- 19 the project to us, in writing, to our e-mail address,
- 20 where we provide an associate with the application
- 21 package. And we'll commit to responding to those
- 22 questions within two days of receipt on the Web site. We
- 23 won't respond directly to the applicant. Whatever
- 24 question we get that comes up, we want to share the
- 25 information with all the potential applicants. We will be

- 1 posting those on the Web site.
- 2 The current time from staff is a week. And
- 3 then -- so if we do, in fact, post the application on
- 4 March 26th, then April 2nd would be the target date of
- 5 receiving all of those questions. Then April 4th would be
- 6 the date that we post the responses to those questions.
- 7 The applications would be due the last week of
- 8 April. I'm thinking right now, April 30th would remain --
- 9 a couple days earlier than that. April 30th is a Friday.
- 10 And applicants can, if they want -- they don't
- 11 have to wait until then, if any applicant feels their
- 12 package complete, that they would fully understand what's
- 13 required of the packet and feel there is information
- 14 available, they are certainly welcome to submit their
- 15 package prior to the deadline.
- And our team will be assembled and we'll begin
- 17 review of the applications as soon as we get them.
- 18 The -- it's kind of a two-step process. Step one
- 19 will be doing eligibility screening. And what that is, is
- 20 all of the applications need to meet all of the project
- 21 selection criteria that are outlined in the Bond
- 22 Expenditure Plan, and they will of course be listed in the
- 23 application plan as well.
- There's ten criteria. And we say "applicable,"
- 25 because, like, for example, if there's one criteria that

1 refers specifically to projects in urban areas and another

- 2 criteria refers to projects in nonurban areas, obviously
- 3 an applicant wouldn't be addressing both of those; it's
- 4 one or the other. So they need to meet all of the
- 5 applicable criteria.
- Once we have the full set of applications that
- 7 have been submitted by the deadline, we'll be -- the team
- 8 will be gathering all the information together and
- 9 determine which of the applications do meet all of the
- 10 criteria.
- 11 And it's at that point we go into Phase 2 which is
- 12 applying cost share criteria. We'll be looking at the
- 13 applications, looking at the type of work being proposed,
- 14 and at that time applying cost share requirements to the
- 15 applications and getting in contact with the applicants to
- 16 inform them of what the cost share is. And then the
- 17 applicants would be required in that process to, you know,
- 18 agree that, yes, that they can meet that cost share and
- 19 then demonstrate financial capability to meet that cost
- 20 share.
- 21 So the -- and then that process will be taking
- 22 place during mid-May, like the deadline, I think, is
- 23 April 30th. It depends too on how many applications we
- 24 get. If we get, you know, just a few, if we get dozens,
- 25 we don't know at this point.

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1 But we're hopeful that we could complete this
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- 2 eligibility screening by about the third week of May, and
- 3 then have gone through this process of applying the cost
- 4 share and communicating with the applicants and arriving
- 5 at that conclusion, somewhere in early- to mid-June.
- 6 Then we -- at the same time that we have -- around
- 7 the date the applications are due, we will have put
- 8 together a template for the agreement. So the idea would
- 9 be that, you know, kind of at the same time where we find
- 10 out the cost sharing requirements and getting the
- 11 financial confirmation, share that template with them so
- 12 that negotiations on the grant agreement can be done
- 13 concurrently with other actions in the process. So that
- 14 we can get to a -- assuming everything else, you know,
- 15 fits with the applicant and the project, we can get to a
- 16 grant agreement sometime early in July -- early June, July
- 17 would be the target.
- 18 And some of the funding that we have available
- 19 would be out of Proposition 84. And there is some
- 20 continuously appropriated funding in Proposition 84. To
- 21 the extent there's urgent requirements for funding in the
- 22 July timeframe, assuming the agreement at that time would
- 23 provide Proposition 84 funding available at that time.
- The Proposition 1E funding probably won't be
- 25 available until September, because the process has to be

- 1 done through the bond issues -- the financial processes
- 2 that just take two or three months to go through, so that
- 3 the quarterly funds can be available.
- 4 So the track we're on, you know, is anticipating
- 5 that we could have -- you know, depending on the
- 6 complexity of the grant agreement and of course having
- 7 good communications back and forth with the applicant and
- 8 getting, you know, information that's needed in a timely
- 9 manner, to have those grant agreements in place, for the
- 10 successful applicants, in the July timeframe.
- 11 Just a comment about TRLIA's presentation. They
- 12 did correctly note on their presentation, that the request
- 13 to DWR, they are -- because with them or any other
- 14 applicant, there isn't a specific commitment at this point
- 15 to any specific cost share or commitment to funding. We
- 16 need to look at all the applications to see what's come in
- 17 and, you know, make sure that they will be able to meet
- 18 the eligibility criteria.
- 19 And so, you know, they reviewed -- a cost sharing
- 20 formula was actually used on the Bear River. So from our
- 21 perspective, it made sense in the presentation. So I just
- 22 want to emphasize that it has been requested but that it
- 23 hasn't been determined yet.
- I think that's all I was going to say on that. If
- 25 I've missed anything, for clarity, I would be glad to

- 1 answer any questions.
- VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: I think that's a pretty
- 3 good job. In terms of writing a check, based on your
- 4 schedule now, when do you think -- or checks, excuse me.
- 5 MR. QUALLEY: Out of the proposition 84 funds, we
- 6 would be able to do that very soon after the grant
- 7 agreement is executed, so within July, we could probably
- 8 issue the first funds in that same timeframe.
- 9 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. So you issue the
- 10 grant agreement. Do you want to guess how long it
- 11 actually takes to get federal services to fund and issue
- 12 the check?
- 13 MR. QUALLEY: These are up to General Services.
- 14 It is in our control.
- 15 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Good. Great.
- 16 SECRETARY DOHERTY: Have you gotten any
- 17 applications yet?
- 18 MR. QUALLEY: No, because we haven't issued the
- 19 application package yet. And they need that before they
- 20 even know what we are looking for.
- 21 SECRETARY DOHERTY: When will they be ready?
- 22 MR. QUALLEY: As indicated, our plan is to put it
- 23 on our FloodSafe Web site on this coming Monday,
- 24 March 26th.
- 25 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Questions from other

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1 Board members or members of the public about state funds?

- Okay, Please, Mr. Foley.
- 3 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Board for having me again.
- 4 There is no commitment from DWR to anyone. And I
- 5 believe the commitment was sort of represented here, that
- 6 there was no commitment from DWR to anyone, or Rec Board.
- 7 It looks like it could potentially default, that
- 8 it seems it's coming out at -- the Board has a good
- 9 agreement to protect the public. That is true. That is a
- 10 very important negotiating tool for the Reclamation Board
- 11 to use, to have an ability to put this process into the
- 12 Rec Board's hands.
- 13 There is precedence when there are small rural
- 14 districts, and the funding capabilities aren't there, and
- 15 that protection is needed for some other purpose. The
- 16 Reclamation Board has taken over. And this, as it's
- 17 coming out, potentially default, Three Rivers
- 18 misrepresents up and down to the public, and if the
- 19 Reclamation Board has got a good agreement with TRLIA,
- 20 that potential default, that default is a negotiation
- 21 tool, that considering everything that's transpired, that
- 22 not another day should pass that the Reclamation Board
- 23 could not get their attorney, get these attorneys and
- 24 discuss their default. And then what -- there's no -- I
- 25 cannot see any point to another day, of however possibly

1 to legally arrange these things. And I would like to be

- 2 involved in it. If the potential default is here, is
- 3 coming to, and you have that in the agreement, that is a
- 4 negotiation tool that, for the public safety, should be
- 5 used.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 MR. QUALLEY: Could I clarify a couple things
- 8 about the early implementation project. The early
- 9 implementation projects are only for public entities to
- 10 modify or improve, in some way, state federal flood
- 11 control facilities. It's not a generally wide open
- 12 program where anybody can apply for funding.
- 13 There are some programs within the FloodSafe
- 14 initiative that, you know, for a variety of purposes and
- 15 basically all locations in the state. But this particular
- 16 program is only specifically for modifications or
- 17 improvements to state federal flood control system levees.
- 18 So that narrows the range of potential applicants right
- 19 there.
- 20 And I do want to say that the type of project that
- 21 TRLIA has proposed -- the setback levee project, that type
- 22 of project with multipurpose benefits, you know, it
- 23 increases the channel space or reduces stage, provides
- 24 assistance benefits, that is the type of project that our
- 25 department encourages, encourages through language in the

1 bonds, through the FloodSafe initiative. So our director

- 2 and deputy director have stated that on a number of
- 3 occasions. So it's not without a big reason that TRLIA
- 4 feels confident after looking at the criteria listed in
- 5 the Bond Expenditure Plan, that they believe their project
- 6 has met those criteria.
- 7 But we can't maintain a commitment to anyone until
- 8 we have opened up this process, officially, invited
- 9 applications from anybody who feels they qualify. And
- 10 once the application period closes, we see the entire set
- 11 of applications, we can evaluate them. Only at that time
- 12 can we make a legal commitment and proceed with the
- 13 contract.
- 14 PRESIDENT CARTER: Mr. Qualley, one question. You
- 15 just mentioned that this -- multiple benefit project is
- 16 something the state supports.
- 17 Are you saying that the state is willing to
- 18 recognize the value of these things in compensating the
- 19 people who are providing the land, to enable the state to
- 20 do this and the County to do this?
- 21 MR. QUALLEY: Well, certainly, there should be
- 22 appropriate compensation. I was listening to the comments
- 23 that Mr. Morrison made. And it appears to us that the
- 24 procedure they are going through is appropriate in term of
- 25 land values.

1 PRESIDENT CARTER: Is inappropriate or

- 2 appropriate.
- 3 MR. QUALLEY: It is appropriate.
- 4 PRESIDENT CARTER: It is appropriate.
- 5 MR. QUALLEY: Under the state guidelines that have
- 6 been communicated.
- 7 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Other questions about
- 8 state funding?
- 9 All right.
- 10 We will move on to the next item on the agenda,
- 11 which is a report back on the maintenance responsibility.
- 12 Paul?
- 13 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: Okay.
- 14 Actually, after the last discussion, I'm really
- 15 encouraged. We'll have our application in.
- 16 All right. This next topic is on maintenance and
- 17 responsibilities of our levees. This came up in the
- 18 general discussion, from the last meeting of the 26th, and
- 19 I will go through and recap a couple of items here, for
- 20 folks.
- 21 The levees that we're dealing with, that existed
- 22 before, on our map, in a second, I will show you -- but
- 23 the levees that are in the TRLIA project are part of the
- 24 system owned by the state and maintained under contract by
- 25 RD 784. So RD 784 does the maintenance of those levees

1 that we have. And the contractual relationship is between

- 2 them and the state.
- 3 TRLIA is improving approximately 29 miles of the
- 4 36 miles maintained by RD 784. Today, the project -- that
- 5 we worked together on improving our projects, we jointly
- 6 do the oversight to maintain those levees.
- 7 The levees that are not being maintained or
- 8 improved by TRLIA are maintained solely by RD 784. And
- 9 the areas benefitted by TRLIA improvements are greater
- 10 than the current RD 784 assessments -- greater than the
- 11 assessment area.
- 12 --000--
- 13 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: And let me go
- 14 to this map here. The areas -- again, you saw this
- 15 before, in my prior presentation. The 29 miles of our
- levees are shown here, in the color scheme of blue, green,
- 17 purple, and red, up here. That's the 29 miles of our
- 18 levees that we're improving. Those are RD 784 levees.
- 19 The black area here is our levees that are within
- 20 784, but they are not areas that we're improving. And
- 21 that's really the difference between RD 784 and TRLIA.
- 22 There's an area up here that will come up and --
- 23 potentially may come up in discussion, about assessment
- 24 district and what we're headed for on the project. But
- 25 really, that black area is the main difference of where

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1 we're not improving it in the project area.
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- 2 --000--
- 3 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: The question
- 4 is, where do we move into the future? TRLIA and RD 784
- 5 are currently working together to establish a budget and
- 6 appropriate amounts of money that we need to apply to meet
- 7 the state standards, to really have good levees and
- 8 maintain them. That effort continues. I think that I
- 9 mentioned that or talked to you about that at the state
- 10 Rec Board at times, when I've talked about what we are
- 11 trying to do there.
- 12 The -- we're also in the process of embarking on a
- 13 218 election, to cover the levee improvements for the
- 14 areas that TRLIA has authority over, and maintaining it.
- 15 The future joint oversight -- in the future, there
- 16 will be a joint oversight by TRLIA and RD 784 -- will
- 17 continue until we complete our project. And if we stay on
- 18 track with our project, for completion in 2008, somewhere
- 19 around the 2008, 2009 timeframe, the fate of TRLIA will be
- 20 determined, whether or not we stay or what we do. And
- 21 during that time, if we are to go away, which is really
- 22 the plan -- we were formed to build the levees and improve
- 23 them -- we would then make the transition to the
- 24 responsibility of the appropriate party. And most likely,
- 25 that transition would be to RD 784. But until that time,

1 as we improve the levees, we'll jointly rework them

- 2 together, to maintain that responsibility.
- 3 And that's really the end. I think that spells
- 4 out how we currently do maintenance responsibility.
- 5 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Sources of funding for
- 6 maintenance. I was under the impression that at least the
- 7 new development was paying a annual fee that could be used
- 8 for levee maintenance; is that correct or not?
- 9 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: I will answer
- 10 part of it. RD 784 currently does get money for their
- 11 assessments to maintain the levees. I know, within my
- 12 budget, within TRLIA, we have funding that we're allowed
- 13 to do O&M and help support levee maintenance. That also
- 14 supports O&M.
- 15 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Just to put a
- 16 little meat on the bones, 784 had an existing assessment
- 17 which continues to apply to all land. And that land
- 18 converts from agricultural use to development use. Homes
- 19 are going to be paying an assessment.
- 20 On top of that, as homes are approved, there is a
- 21 county assessment area, if you will, where monies are
- 22 collected for capital improvements. That money goes to RD
- 23 784. Significant portions of that goes to drainage, but
- 24 some actually can be used on maintenance as well. And I
- 25 think what you are referring to, Butch, on top of that, is

- 1 as we developed the plan whereby developers can issue
- 2 builder bonds and impact fee bonds, to recoup the money
- 3 that they are paying, there is a reservation in the
- 4 calculation. And the reservation is to ensure that there
- 5 is a roof within the state limits for a
- 6 hundred-dollar-a-home fee. And that hundred-dollar-a-home
- 7 fee, for example, would be collected under the 218
- 8 election.
- 9 So there is money collected. There's money paid
- 10 as the home is approved. The builder bonds meet the
- 11 capacity in the 218 election. And Paul talked about how
- 12 we get the difference.
- 13 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: But it's not a fee.
- 14 It's not a fee, anyway, but an annual assessment on new
- 15 homes to pay for levee maintenance.
- 16 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: It isn't until the
- 17 218 election. There's no mechanism whereby we impose a
- 18 perpetual fee on now homes without having a 218 election
- 19 under state law. It's a problem with -- it's one of the
- 20 many problems of Proposition 218.
- 21 So we're collecting what we can. We're held to
- 22 capacity of having a 218 election. That will be sometime
- 23 this year. Paul knows the schedule better than I do. And
- 24 once that election is complete, that will result in the
- 25 fee for existing and new.

1 So new homes are paying capital improvements, old

- 2 homes are not. New homes and old homes will pay O&M.
- 3 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: And an
- 4 important clarification is that the TRLIA Board hasn't
- 5 actually adopted or accepted that we're having an election
- 6 yet. We're in the formation of gathering information as
- 7 to this issue. We'll be coming shortly, but we have not
- 8 potentially set the 218 election this year.
- 9 We have funded the necessary studies to go forward
- 10 to gather the information to see if we should proceed with
- 11 218.
- 12 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Mr. Qualley?
- MR. QUALLEY: Is it fair to assume that you'd
- 14 either have a plan B or will develop a plan B, should the
- 15 218 election fail? We all hope it passes, but that's
- 16 pretty significant.
- 17 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: The short answer
- 18 is yes. Like other communities, where 218 elections don't
- 19 pass, we would go back and go back again. Hopefully it
- 20 will pass a second time. If that doesn't work, we'll look
- 21 at other local funding sources. And at the end of the
- 22 day, if there are insufficient local funds, there's always
- 23 the opportunity for a maintenance area, which is nothing
- 24 that a local area does lightly, but it's important that
- 25 levee property be maintained. So yes, there is a plan B,

1 and that is the worst case scenario that DWR can impose,

- 2 or what we can request.
- 3 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: There's an
- 4 element here -- I mean, it's one of the aspects that we're
- 5 evaluating now, if the 218 can go forward, if the timing
- 6 is right on it or not -- is, our levees are under
- 7 improvement. As we embark on the Feather, half of the
- 8 system is under construction or improvement. The Feather
- 9 will be 13 miles of the system.
- 10 So it's definitely under the TRLIA oversight to
- 11 maintain. We're weighing, do we go this year or not, and
- 12 trying to come up with a right criteria to apply. If we
- 13 chose not to go into 218 this year, I don't think it would
- 14 fail. We -- TRLIA has got a lot of stuff still going on,
- 15 in improvement. We do have our O&M budget in place. RD
- 16 784 is still receiving revenues, and we would be able to
- 17 maintain the system to a good standard and move forward on
- 18 it.
- 19 I think the timing for having the funding in
- 20 place, in answer to your question, was, is really once
- 21 TRLIA is done, in the 2009 timeframe, as we go to degrade
- 22 that levee, then how do we then put it in place, to move
- 23 forward and have the right fund? And then that will give
- 24 us time to come up with alternative plans, to make that
- 25 happen.

1 We are no different than any other community that

- 2 is trying to improve levees and achieve standards. And
- 3 we're aggressively trying to do that too, to get our O&M
- 4 to the state standard.
- 5 MR. ARCHER: Mr. Vice President?
- 6 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Sure.
- 7 MR. ARCHER: Thank you.
- 8 Regarding maintenance, I brought before the Yuba
- 9 County Board of Supervisors not too long ago that thing on
- 10 mello-roos. And it says that you can do things as long as
- 11 you don't supplant the existing things.
- 12 Now, you are talking about maintaining levees.
- 13 That's coming up here. You are maintaining levees. They
- 14 are maintaining levees. You are maintaining your levees.
- 15 They are maintaining their levees. But you are both
- 16 maintaining levees. Those levees that you are maintaining
- 17 were theirs before you came here. So you are now
- 18 supplanting RD 784.
- 19 Now, I'm not an attorney. There's plenty of them
- 20 here. But I'm sure, I read that law as clear as I could.
- 21 And the bottom line of it said, you cannot supplant an
- 22 existing entity under mello-roos.
- 23 So before you start your 18 [sic] elections, I
- 24 believe you should look into that.
- 25 Mr. Shapiro? You are chomping at the bit.

1 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: I just wanted to

- 2 make clear that our maintenance is jointly with RD 784.
- 3 784 supports our working to develop additional funding for
- 4 maintenance. And our attorneys who handle our local
- 5 finance have looked at the provisions that you have
- 6 identified, and don't say they say what you say they say.
- 7 MR. ARCHER: Okay. That doesn't answer the
- 8 question at all. They were in the maintenance business.
- 9 I was president of that. I know what they done before you
- 10 came. We don't need your operation to maintain our
- 11 levees. You were brought here to get money to build
- 12 levees. Now you are building yourself a conglomeration in
- 13 Yuba County, if you get a stay, as the words were.
- 14 We don't need another big tax base -- I mean, a
- 15 tax thing, in Yuba County when we have 784. The people
- 16 that agree with you from 784, if they don't -- if they
- 17 agree with you, they can be moved out and other people can
- 18 move in, that disagrees with that.
- 19 784 is the maintenance, not Three Rivers.
- 20 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Thank you. We have one
- 21 item left on the agenda, other than --
- MR. HARRIS: Tom Harris, Hofman Ranch.
- 23 And I know the hour is late, Butch. And we
- 24 probably all want to go do other things. But it's
- 25 important, I think, that the Reclamation Board get their

1 arms around this thing called maintenance. And I suggest

- 2 that from now on, in the monthly status reports that come
- 3 from Three Rivers, there be a component in there, that
- 4 lays out, with precision, exactly what the plan is for
- 5 purposes of maintenance.
- 6 It came as a shock to a number of people -- and my
- 7 client is included -- when they have received what Paul
- 8 has identified, I guess, as trying to ascertain what the
- 9 mood is out there politically, with a -- I guess you would
- 10 call it a survey. And the survey was written with such
- 11 precision, that it had right down to the penny what a
- 12 potential assessment would be on these properties,
- 13 shocking a number of people as to how far this train had
- 14 gone down the track.
- 15 They did not understand that as Three Rivers was
- 16 putting its levee project together, just how far-reaching
- 17 on the map these potential assessments on an ongoing basis
- 18 for maintenance fund may be.
- I would have to go back and check, but I don't
- 20 think it's ever been really laid out to the public in Yuba
- 21 County, just exactly what that bill is going to be in
- 22 perpetuity for all of these improvements that would be
- 23 outside RD 784.
- 24 So there is a question here with respect to Three
- 25 Rivers. I would indicate to you, Three Rivers is a joint

1 power authority. It was not designed to be in perpetuity.

- 2 It's whole intent is to come in and do exactly what
- 3 Mr. Archer suggested -- put together the financing that
- 4 the construction underplaces and then say goodbye and hand
- 5 over to some other maintenance authority, whatever that
- 6 might be.
- 7 And their general provisions in their charter says
- 8 very clearly, "It is not contemplated that the authority
- 9 will in any way contract for or finance periodic levee
- 10 maintenance activities, which the district, other
- 11 reclamation district, or other governmental or
- 12 nongovernmental entities are obligated to do or which
- 13 otherwise, in the past, have been done by them." That
- 14 would be Section 2.01 under Purposes, General Provisions.
- 15 There is, however, under the Powers to be Fair
- 16 Provisions, language in there that identifies, among
- 17 specific powers, to acquire, construct, manage, maintain,
- 18 or operate public improvements. But that is, again,
- 19 inconsistent, if you will, with the idea that somehow
- 20 Three Rivers is going to be around, in perpetuity, to
- 21 handle the maintenance, much less who's going to have to
- 22 pay for it in terms of -- I guess you would call it
- 23 benefitted households or private properties and, you know,
- 24 whether or not they had a house on them or don't have a
- 25 house or whatever. It's a complex issue. And I think

1 it's important for the Board to be made aware and keep on

- 2 top of it, because I have a feeling we're going to be
- 3 visiting this one a number of times in the future.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Something I said
- 6 may not have been clear. Paul had noted that 2009 might
- 7 be the end of Three Rivers. It's important to realize
- 8 that the 218 election and the ability to get money from
- 9 and investing in the ability of Three Rivers, that
- 10 assessment district, if you will, can assign the money to
- 11 784, to the county to actually do the maintenance, long
- 12 term.
- 13 So the fact that there is an election to raise
- 14 that money is not a self-determining prophesy that Three
- 15 Rivers has to be around. We didn't mean to imply,
- 16 otherwise, if our comments were taken that way.
- 17 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Ms. Hofman?
- 18 MS. HOFMAN: I'm sorry to trouble you, but I'm one
- 19 of the persons that has nothing to do with Three Rivers.
- 20 As far as any levee, they've helped us.
- I have been trying now, for over five weeks,
- 22 daily, to get ahold of Three Rivers, to look at their
- 23 records that establishes their survey they sent out, which
- 24 was an official survey, in which I'm paying an assessment
- 25 on land that I know for a fact, from the history of the

- 1 area, hasn't flooded in 140 years.
- 2 The area of benefit that Three Rivers come here
- 3 and told you how many people they were saving, they sure
- 4 as hell, excuse the expression, must have been included in
- 5 that land that hadn't flooded for 140 years and is above
- 6 the elevations.
- 7 We are paying -- in some areas, we're paying a
- 8 hundred dollars an acre on land that has never flooded, in
- 9 this survey that they are doing.
- 10 Three Rivers is out of control. You cannot get
- 11 the records. If you have bills and you are being asked to
- 12 participate in a maintenance in which they are charging
- 13 you maintenance for levee protection on land, that they
- 14 claim they have a right to flood for an invasion easement.
- 15 These people are out of control. We can't get the
- 16 records. They are over here, saying, they are ready for
- 17 an election. You ask them, what is your -- how are you
- 18 assessing the benefit? Some people are benefitting from
- 19 the interceptor levee. They are benefitting from the
- 20 Feather River levee. They are benefitting from the
- 21 improvements that was done on the Bear and the Yuba.
- 22 And some of us are benefitting for nothing, but
- 23 the assessment is the same. And you can't get -- you
- 24 can't get the information.
- 25 I received -- as an official document from TRLIA,

- 1 I received the list of people that was being -- the
- 2 parcels that being was [sic] assessed, was 239 pages. It
- 3 wasn't even numbered. It didn't have a title. It didn't
- 4 tell you anything about how they assessed it. It just
- 5 listed your parcels. So from that, you figured out what
- 6 you are being assessed on, apparently.
- 7 There's lists. There's nothing on them that tell
- 8 you what it is. There's no way to get any record or
- 9 information. And the only help that we have here is the
- 10 Reclamation Board to see that something is properly done,
- 11 because they told us that the developers was paying for
- 12 it. 784 was involved in it. Now they are making a county
- 13 service area to take in more people.
- 14 And when I asked last -- when you had your first
- 15 meeting here, I asked specifically what the area of
- benefit was. And there was 25,000, there was 27,000
- 17 people. Now I find out, I'm one of them. And I got
- 18 flowage easements.
- 19 Thank you.
- 20 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: All I want to say that
- 21 may give you some comfort is, to the best of my knowledge,
- 22 having worked for SAFCA, find some way to raise money
- 23 without having to go through a 218 election, there is
- 24 none. So they are going to have to send ballots out and
- 25 get people to vote. And that's going to be a real

- 1 challenge.
- 2 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: I do think it
- 3 would be wise to share a couple comments, where we are on
- 4 218 election.
- 5 The -- we have not established any benefit of
- 6 areas yet or assessed anyone or proposed assessments on
- 7 anyone.
- 8 What we did do was go forward with a survey that
- 9 had a range of numbers to a populace in the area, that we
- 10 have, to see how they would respond or were they -- how
- 11 would they respond to a new election. And it was a survey
- 12 that was sent out with a range of numbers. And that's all
- 13 it was.
- 14 And we have received that information back and
- 15 we're considering what the responses were to that survey.
- 16 We are intimately working with our assessment engineers to
- 17 try to establish what benefits there are, where they are,
- 18 and how people should be assessed. No one -- I don't even
- 19 know what the assessment will be yet. We sure haven't
- 20 gone to our Board to propose anything yet, in regards to
- 21 that. That all goes to the weighing of what we are going
- 22 to come with into the future.
- In regards to the records, the records that we do
- 24 have are on file. There was a delay, and we talked to
- 25 Ms. Hofman about that.

1 So the -- but we haven't made any decisions, and

- 2 the TRLIA Board still has to wade through whether or not
- 3 we can do it, and that's in the formation or stage it's in
- 4 right now.
- 5 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Other comments or
- 6 questions?
- 7 MR. FOLEY: I would just like to comment that
- 8 regarding the maintenance afterwards, for these urban
- 9 areas, the Reclamation Board and Three Rivers, as a public
- 10 safety agency, has to come to a realization that -- or in
- 11 urban areas where numbers of people and the dollars and
- 12 the costs of those when something goes wrong. This is not
- 13 good enough for urban areas, including afterwards, if
- 14 it's -- it can be left for urban areas for people living
- 15 there. The Rec Board has to make it more clear, has to
- 16 act more aggressive towards the public interest. If it is
- 17 necessary -- if this is going to come up over and over
- 18 again, then the Rec Board has to make some policy
- 19 recommendations for urban areas. DWR became the
- 20 maintaining agency. I'm for urban areas. This is not
- 21 good enough, the whole proceedings.
- 22 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Whatever my personal
- 23 opinion might be, I think, in the end, what it breaks down
- 24 to is if the levees, which are inspected twice annually by
- 25 DWR, are not being maintained to current standards, and

- 1 those standards go up, the state's long-term option,
- 2 because of the potential for 218, whether it be approved,
- 3 is to establish a maintenance area where SAFCA assesses
- 4 and the state's assessment is not covered by 218.
- 5 So you know, there may have been opportunities to
- 6 get a fee in place at least where it helped. But it's
- 7 done. And I think the only choice is to pursue a 218
- 8 election. And you know, it's probably not -- it probably
- 9 can pass. It's a challenge. And if it's not done, and
- 10 the existing revenue is enough to maintain the levees,
- 11 then eventually the state will be worse. It's not a great
- 12 way to do business.
- Okay.
- 14 We have -- our last item of formal reporting on
- 15 the agenda, which is response to concerns expressed at the
- 16 February 26, 2007, subcommittee meeting regarding
- 17 compliance with Bagley-Keene.
- 18 And I'm going to turn this over to Ms. Finch, who
- 19 is an attorney representing the Rec Board here today.
- 20 PRESIDENT CARTER: I just wanted to make one quick
- 21 comment before Ms. Finch responds to the concerns from
- 22 last meeting.
- 23 As President of the State Reclamation Board, I
- 24 take the responsibility of compliance to the Open Meeting
- 25 Law very, very seriously, and asked that our legal counsel

- 1 respond to these allegations. I'm glad they did.
- 2 And I am disappointed in that the form of some of
- 3 these allegations really did -- were without foundation,
- 4 as you will hear. And I don't appreciate individuals
- 5 making allegations without -- without proper local
- 6 foundation.
- 7 So -- but this is something that we do take
- 8 seriously. If there are concerns we do want to know about
- 9 it. We will address them.
- 10 But I was a little bit disappointed in the
- 11 comments from the last meeting.
- 12 LEGAL COUNSEL FINCH: Thank you.
- 13 I'm going to be brief because there has been a
- 14 handout distributed regarding this issue. And there is at
- 15 least one copy available to the public for inspection.
- 16 There's more than one.
- 17 So if anybody would like a copy. So I would like
- 18 to go through the points. The first point made was the
- 19 adequacy of the notice of the contact person. And under
- 20 Bagley-Keene, you need to have a name, address, and phone
- 21 number of any person who can provide further information
- 22 regarding the agenda.
- 23 And the Board has had a procedure, a long-standing
- 24 procedure, and that is, that information is provided on
- 25 the letterhead. And we've never had any complaints. And

- 1 so when it was brought to the attention that there
- 2 possibly could be some confusion on this matter, we have
- 3 added something where, from now on, for more clarity, we
- 4 will have a little sentence on the agenda that states a
- 5 specific person with their name and address and telephone
- 6 number in order to provide further clarity.
- 7 But our position is that what we have been doing
- 8 in the past was adequate, but we are always open to
- 9 improving our system.
- 10 And then the second point is the adequacy of the
- 11 Board's brief agenda description of items to be discussed
- 12 on the agenda, for the subcommittee meeting.
- 13 And under Bagley-Keene, the description does not
- 14 need to be in excess of 20 words. And the
- 15 February 26th Board meeting had one agenda item, which was
- 16 the status and review of Three Rivers Levee Improvement
- 17 Authority projects. And then we added a clarifying
- 18 component to the agenda by breaking it down to three
- 19 subcategories. And that is adequate, as a brief general
- 20 description for Bagley-Keene.
- 21 And then moving on to the third item, which that
- 22 the agenda did not clearly notice action items, it is the
- 23 procedure of the Board that we asterisk any agenda item.
- 24 And that is sufficient for Bagley-Keene.
- 25 And then the fourth item was that we did not

1 provide proper public comment opportunities. And Item 4

- 2 on the agenda allowed for public comment on both the
- 3 agendized items and non-agendized items. And that is
- 4 sufficient for Bagley-Keene.
- 5 So the Rec Board subcommittee did not violate
- 6 Bagley-Keene at the February 26th Board meeting --
- 7 subcommittee meeting.
- 8 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Mr. Foley?
- 9 MR. FOLEY: I can say it from here. I suppose
- 10 that came from Dale Smith, who does work with -- he's a
- 11 member of the CCRG. He's also on the Board. And he's
- 12 very sensitive of those things.
- 13 I, personally, from experience, am very, very
- 14 happy with the time the Board gives me, when we jump up.
- 15 I'm as happy as can be. He has those concerns. And I
- 16 don't understand them.
- 17 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Thank you. That helps.
- 18 All right.
- 19 PRESIDENT CARTER: Just for the record, we will be
- 20 drafting a letter to Dr. Smith in response to his concerns
- 21 with regards to this. The content of this will be
- 22 essentially what Ms. Finch has just presented to you and
- 23 what's in the handout.
- 24 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Yes, Ms. Griego?
- TRLIA BOARD MEMBER GRIEGO: Yes, before we

1 adjourn, I have a few comments, if I can. Do you want me

- 2 to grab the microphone?
- 3 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: We are in the public
- 4 comment session. Unless -- wait. Are there other
- 5 comments about the Bagley-Keene response?
- 6 No.
- We're going to move on.
- 8 And I would remind you that the committee needs a
- 9 few minutes at the end of this to discuss what it thinks
- 10 its next steps are.
- 11 TRLIA BOARD MEMBER GRIEGO: Thank you. I just
- 12 would like to thank the Rec Board for conducting these
- 13 meetings here in Yuba county. I think it's a real
- 14 convenience for all of us to share and educate.
- 15 I had the opportunity this last weekend, to sit in
- 16 front of about 111 officials and talk about the levee
- 17 project that we have in Yuba county and what we've been
- 18 able to accomplish.
- 19 Needless to say, there was a lot of people that
- 20 wished they were in the same boat as Yuba County, with
- 21 flood protection. And what that means to say is this,
- 22 that coming up with a local share is not going to be an
- 23 easy task for the Central Valley communities. Needless to
- 24 say, the process in itself is dubious.
- 25 So one of the things that we talked about was

- 1 farmland, farmland preservation. Because that's a
- 2 sensitive issue with the group that I was talking to.
- 3 And because this bill, 184, did not provide for
- 4 farmland, the thought of the crowd was that farmland would
- 5 be a risk because of the share the local jurisdictions
- 6 have to come up with, and that it will be sold in order to
- 7 come up with that share.
- 8 We're sensitive to these local issues of ag use.
- 9 I think that because I sit on the Cal Ag Board, and our
- 10 mission is to preserve ag land. Many times I've sat on
- 11 that dais, trying to protect the ag lands, in my district.
- 12 People do have property rights.
- 13 But more importantly, the reason why I sat on this
- 14 committee and because I have been so diligent to try to
- 15 get this project done is because of lies. You look at the
- 16 flood of '50, '55, '86, and '97. That's what's important.
- 17 So I just want to make sure we have that in perspective.
- 18 Thank you.
- 19 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Sir?
- 20 MR. LEWIS: My name is Jim Lewis. And I live on
- 21 Broadway, which is the great broadway to the levee. And
- 22 one of the issues that I think has been woefully omitted
- 23 especially when we talk about maintenance, is enforcement
- 24 and protection of levees and enforcement of that
- 25 protection.

I would submit that the levee is currently being

- 2 degraded at an accelerated rate because of the permissible
- 3 access to the levee by motorcycles, four-wheelers,
- 4 four-wheel drive trucks, that like to jump over the levee,
- 5 dig big ruts on the side.
- 6 It's -- you know, whatever happens, whether the
- 7 in-place levee is upgraded, whether we do the new levee,
- 8 there needs to be a provision for funds to provide
- 9 enforcement and protection of the levee, because the
- 10 lives -- you know, when I put my head down on my pillow at
- 11 night and there's an 1-inch-an-hour storm going on, I want
- 12 to be able to sleep and not thinking about the ruts that
- 13 are in the levee, where people have gone around the gates
- 14 or cut the fences to get into the levee.
- 15 It's something that hasn't been discussed, but no
- 16 matter what happens, with any of your plans, the levee
- 17 that ends up protecting this region, you may call it
- 18 \$140 million project or 200 million or whatever, but it's
- 19 priceless.
- 20 And it needs to be protected.
- 21 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: I just want to
- 22 say, some people don't know, but I'm general counsel for
- 23 the California Flood Control Association. And there's a
- 24 great difficulty right now in enforcing trespass standards
- on levees. There's actually been a bill introduced in

1 legislature that would make it easier for RDs to enforce

- 2 trespass standards.
- 3 So I don't recall the number offhand, but if you
- 4 go to the state Senate Web page, you can do a search for
- 5 levee trespass, and I would encourage anyone who feels
- 6 this way to write letters of support for that bill,
- 7 because we do have very little ability to easily enforce
- 8 trespass standards as a reclamation district.
- 9 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: And while we haven't
- 10 discussed the subject that we raised here, believe me,
- 11 this is a subject that has been much discussed in almost
- 12 every urban area, and eventually will have to be
- 13 addressed, but not now.
- 14 Any more comments from the public?
- 15 MS. RICE: My name is Jeanette Rice, and I live
- 16 out in Plumas Lake area.
- 17 I'm the last of a dying breed. I'm one of the
- 18 farmers out there who's scheduled to possibly lose my land
- 19 due to eminent domain. I think our parcel number is 96,
- 20 up there, on the map.
- 21 I have a 20-acre farm and it's been projected that
- 22 I'm going to lose about 6 acres of that farm. It's very
- 23 valuable land. It's probably the richest farmland in Yuba
- 24 County. And I raise peaches and nectarines and plums and
- 25 apricots on that land. And I'm really concerned that that

1 levee setback is going to take most of that land and put

- 2 me out of business as a certified farmer's market
- 3 producer.
- 4 My family and I had started a farm back in 1955.
- 5 We've seen a lot of changes since then. And I just want
- 6 to make you all aware that if this levee setback line
- 7 isn't changed, you are destined to lose one of the most
- 8 productive Yuba County producers in the area.
- 9 I will ask you to take a very careful look at that
- 10 levee setback. And I request that you take a look at it
- 11 and really think what you guys are doing.
- 12 The proposal is -- the levee setback right now is
- 13 almost a half mile away from where it would be ordinarily.
- 14 So I'm just asking that you think about us, at Rice River
- 15 Ranch, and other farmers in the area, to limit that and
- 16 ask that you put that limit line only 300 feet away, to
- 17 the west, and you can save our valuable family farm.
- 18 Thank you.
- 19 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Other comments?
- Thank you.
- 21 All right. I think the committee has to think a
- 22 little bit about what our next steps are. One thing that
- 23 I'm not anxious to hear but that I think has to be done,
- 24 is that would be a summary prepared for the full board,
- 25 really of what's transpired at these meetings.

1 And I'm prepared to do that. I think a couple of

- 2 questions that I would like my fellow Board members to
- 3 give me some assistance on -- at this point, is there a
- 4 reason for the subcommittee to meet again, in your minds?
- 5 And along with that, I guess I would want to say,
- 6 it seems to me that we have what would appear to be a
- 7 credible, given, but tight cash flow that, in effect, if
- 8 this money comes out of the state, they are proceeding
- 9 forward with that project now, and using the funds that
- 10 are coming in. If the money comes in from the state, they
- 11 are to be able to -- and nothing else goes wrong, I don't
- 12 think we should -- it's not wrong. I mean, nothing else
- 13 that's unanticipated happens. They ought to be able to
- 14 finish the levee improvements, not the degradation by --
- 15 before the flood season of 2009.
- 16 So to some extent, it seems to me that the main
- 17 thing we have to do as either the subcommittee or the full
- 18 Board is monitor carefully whether the funding inflow and
- 19 outflow, that was shown today, is in fact what actually
- 20 happens. And in the event that at some point an event
- 21 happens and that funding isn't realized, then we are in a
- 22 position of having to step back in here and decide
- 23 whether, you know, we would want to consider default or
- 24 have more time here for these folks to work out an
- 25 agreement with their landowner.

1 But up until then, it seems like our best approach

- 2 is just to watch what's happening and to get issues
- 3 resolved that a timely manner, which might lead to funding
- 4 and construction of these projects.
- 5 But I would like to hear from the others to the
- 6 extent of that.
- 7 PRESIDENT CARTER: I -- not that I want to put
- 8 another meeting on the calendar, but I do have some
- 9 concerns, which I think are worth monitoring. Whether or
- 10 not we need to have another subcommittee or we could do
- 11 that at the Board level, I'm not sure.
- 12 My concerns not only focus around the dollars and
- 13 the cash flow. As you say, Butch, it's tight. Everything
- 14 has to fall -- all the pieces of the puzzle have to fall
- 15 into place when we plan on having them fall into place.
- 16 But also, I'm -- as you probably could tell, I'm
- 17 pretty sensitive to where the setback is and how you do
- 18 that with regard to the local property owners. Based on
- 19 what I heard today, I'm not entirely convinced that the
- 20 line that's on this map is, in fact, the line that --
- 21 where it needs to be.
- I encourage you not to hide behind the eminent
- 23 domain and condemnation laws when you are approaching
- 24 acquisitions. I know you can do that. That is a choice
- 25 that you make, but that's not something you have to do.

1 And so I want to keep up to speed on what's going on

- 2 there.
- 3 So, you know, I -- maybe in a couple months it
- 4 might make sense to have another -- just a review of where
- 5 we stand on all that, here in Yuba city.
- 6 SECRETARY DOHERTY: I quite agree with that. I
- 7 think sometimes I'm in the wrong place because there's
- 8 only 50.1 percent of lands in California left in private
- 9 hands. And I feel that the Supreme Court has issued our
- 10 private property rights. We don't have them anymore,
- 11 Ms. Griego. So this is a sensitive subject.
- 12 I concur with the President also.
- 13 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Okay. So it seems to me
- 14 that for now, we're going to schedule another committee
- 15 meeting, two months roughly -- we need to work with you to
- 16 find a date that works with you and with us -- when we
- 17 would again look at and how things are addressed in terms
- 18 of the cash flow and expect, I think, to hear a little bit
- 19 more about the location of the levee. And you folks have
- 20 any comment or thoughts about that?
- 21 TRLIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUNNER: We're open to
- 22 the meeting. I think the idea of coming back with a
- 23 progress report and a subcommittee meeting is probably
- 24 more productive than a full Board meeting. We've been
- 25 here a long time already. I can't imagine us taking this

1 amount of time at your Board meeting, where you already

- 2 got lots and lots of topics going on. So I think it is
- 3 productive, we have an exchange here on it.
- 4 The -- my sense of the discussion on the
- 5 foundation -- and we are sensitive to that. I'm sensitive
- 6 to it, on where we put it. We have tried to move that
- 7 levee around. We could try more. But we are on that fast
- 8 track to get it done by 2009.
- 9 So there is a dynamic there in moving forward,
- 10 getting the project on schedule. We don't want to do
- 11 something just to do something. And we will try really
- 12 hard not to go and hide behind eminent domain, and to work
- 13 with the residents, back and forth on it.
- 14 But the reality is, is that we need to anchor the
- 15 levee and get soil. And that's why we're building a new
- 16 levee.
- 17 We do have soil borings that we have taken and the
- 18 spacing is different. I mean, our project is no different
- 19 than the rest of the levees we built across the street.
- 20 We have a spacing that's out there, based upon certain
- 21 protocols, on which we are building the levee. You are
- 22 going to face this over and over again, project
- 23 after project that's out there.
- 24 And we're now coming in to try to fill that space
- 25 again, with data, which may adjust the levee to some

1 degree, fine-tuning it. But we actively want to get that

- 2 levee built.
- 3 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: I just wanted to
- 4 turn it to a procedural question. It has been my view, as
- 5 counsel for Three Rivers, that the decision to construct
- 6 the setback levee and receive state funding and adjust the
- 7 local share will require an amendment to the second
- 8 funding, but does not require a change to the second
- 9 implementation agreement. And you will recall, the second
- 10 implementation agreement is one to be approved. There's a
- 11 third party beneficiary on it that says, "You will do X,
- 12 Y, Z." And the second funding agreement is an internal
- 13 agreement. It's between Three Rivers and the county.
- 14 So we're going to be working over the next several
- 15 months to amend that. We clearly will keep you informed
- 16 of that. The procedural question I'm asking is, whether
- 17 you think you need to take any action in that regard.
- 18 I don't believe you do, because you are not a
- 19 party to either agreement. You are a beneficiary of the
- 20 agreement that will still be in place. But I think it's
- 21 worth, at least, asking the question.
- 22 Butch, as you wrote your report on, when you were
- 23 asking if your entire Board should take action or whether
- 24 you are simply updating them on what this committee has
- 25 heard, and are you continuing with your intent to monitor?

- 1 I just want to ask the question.
- VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: I think it probably
- 3 makes more sense to ask counsel to look carefully at the
- 4 agreements and discuss the matter with Mr. Shapiro.
- If you believe we need to, as a Board, make a
- 6 decision here, about the difference between the
- 7 implementation agreement and the funding agreement, or if
- 8 you think, based on what you have seen, that the
- 9 implementation agreement may require amendments, then I
- 10 think the only way the three of us can discuss that would
- 11 be in another meeting, and so we would have to schedule
- 12 another meeting.
- 13 And I think you can go ahead and do the research
- 14 and talk to Mr. Shapiro and just advise the Board members,
- 15 in the event that you think we need to amend either the
- 16 implementation agreement or get involved in some way.
- What do you call the other one?
- 18 TRLIA SPECIAL COUNSEL SHAPIRO: Funding agreement.
- 19 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: Funding agreement. Is
- 20 that okay?
- 21 Mr. Archer, would you like to make a comment?
- MR. ARCHER: Yes, I would. We'll go back
- 23 upstream, to where you say that levee is clear, safe.
- 24 Three Rivers says that -- Three Rivers says that levee is
- 25 good as reconstructed.

1 Now, it was made in 1909 or somewhere, by farmers,

- 2 to haul that stuff up there. That was its construction,
- 3 and then it was broken in '86 and they poured certain
- 4 things in there.
- 5 And the construction after that was a slurry wall
- 6 halfway up and a sand berm out here. Now, they say they
- 7 are solid on it. It's a solid levee. They like that
- 8 levee. They have taken this -- the Board of Supervisors
- 9 has held the State of California harmless from any levee
- 10 failures.
- 11 Now, since they say that that levee is safe, we
- 12 either have to sue when it fails there, where it's
- 13 slumping right now, like I've tried to tell you people.
- 14 We either have to sue Three Rivers or Yuba County or 784
- or who, because the State is going to say, "We're held
- 16 harmless."
- Now, that levee is unsafe. I didn't spend seven
- 18 years working on that levee, knowing that even back then,
- 19 when they made these maps that they are showing you here,
- 20 they left that area out. They wouldn't put it on maps
- 21 because they did not intend to work on that area. It
- 22 can't be fixed. They know it can't be fixed. So they got
- 23 a permit.
- 24 PRESIDENT CARTER: Mr. Archer, we have talked
- 25 about this ad nauseam and --

1 MR. ARCHER: All right. I just want you to know I

- 2 disagree with your saying --
- 3 PRESIDENT CARTER: And I understand that. That is
- 4 your right. I know you disagree. I know you don't trust
- 5 the Corps' analysis. I know you don't trust the other
- 6 engineering analysis. But that's the analysis that the
- 7 Rec Board has to rely on. That's what we are relying on.
- 8 MR. ARCHER: All right. Because I now know --
- 9 PRESIDENT CARTER: End of story. End of
- 10 discussion.
- 11 MR. ARCHER: That's not the end of my discussion.
- 12 PRESIDENT CARTER: You can disagree. That's your
- 13 right. But that's where the Board stands, and we're
- 14 moving on from here.
- 15 MR. ARCHER: I went back to the closing end of it.
- 16 I mean, that's it now. I'm adios.
- 17 Thank you.
- 18 VICE PRESIDENT HODGKINS: For all of you, we
- 19 appreciate your participation, your willingness to sit
- 20 here, through what can't have been the most entertaining
- 21 meeting. But we expect, perhaps to see you again, in
- 22 about two months and sort of check in on where we are.
- 23 All right?
- 24 And I want to thank you, the Three Rivers folks,
- 25 who have been, I think, more than willing to indulge

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people peeking into their project more than typically had
 1
    been in the past. But it helps us all better understand
 2
    what's going on.
 3
 4
            Thank you.
 5
            (The Reclamation Board TRLIA Subcommittee
            Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.)
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| 1  | CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER                                    |
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| 2  | I, KATHRYN S. KENYON, a Certified Shorthand Reporter       |
| 3  | of the State of California, do hereby certify:             |
| 4  | That I am a disinterested person herein; that the          |
| 5  | foregoing Reclamation Board TRLIA Subcommittee Meeting was |
| 6  | reported in shorthand by me, Kathryn S. Kenyon, a          |
| 7  | Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California,   |
| 8  | and thereafter transcribed into typewriting.               |
| 9  | I further certify that I am not of counsel or              |
| 10 | attorney for any of the parties to said meeting nor in any |
| 11 | way interested in the outcome of said meeting.             |
| 12 | IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this       |
| 13 | 3rd day of April, 2007.                                    |
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| 22 | KATHRYN S. KENYON, CSR                                     |
| 23 | Certified Shorthand Reporter                               |
| 24 | License No. 13061  |
| 25 |  |